

touring magazine

APRIL – MAY 2021 www.touring.co.uk

MISSION: ADVENTURE



TENTS AND EQUIPMENT / ALTERNATIVE CAMPSITES / STARGAZING /
VAN REVIEW / FORAGING / SPANISH BEACHES / AND MORE INSIDE...

JOIN

THE TRAVEL CLUB

THE MEMBERSHIP CLUB FOR SERIOUS TRAVELLERS
FROM BRADT GUIDES

Be inspired

Free books and our monthly e-zine, packed with travel tips and inspiration

Save money

Exclusive offers and special discounts from our favourite travel brands

Plan the trip of a lifetime

Access our exclusive concierge service and have a bespoke itinerary created for you by a Bradt author

Join here:
bradtguides.com/travelclub

Membership levels to suit all budgets

Bradt GUIDES

TRAVEL TAKEN SERIOUSLY

Welcome

touring
magazine

Editor

Caroline Mills

Designer

Barbara Prada

Marketing

Olivia Sewell

Commercial Director

Lwin Millar

Editorial Director

Felix Blakeston

Touring Magazine is published by

ROSEVINE DIGITAL

Information carried in *Touring Magazine* is checked for accuracy but the views or opinions included herein do not necessarily represent those of Rosevine Media Ltd. Attractions and destinations mentioned herein should only be visited when it is safe to do so in accordance with government guidelines.

www.touring.co.uk
discovertouring@rosevinedigital.com

Front cover image: ©Anton Alberts

A

t times I'd be grateful for a crystal ball, or even some tea leaves.

Will everywhere open as planned and on time or will there be likely setbacks to us all achieving some much-needed changes of scenery?

What we can predict (well, almost, lockdowns permitting) is that UK campsites are in for a bumper season, with site owners struggling to cope with a demand for bookings as soon as a roadmap out of lockdown was announced.

That puts pressure on existing campsites, so we've a feature on where else, and how else, you can camp legally if you can't book that coveted campsite pitch.

Once there, you might want to lie back beneath the stars - and look at them. How's your Ursa Major from your Ursa Minor? You'll be able to find out with our feature on the best places to camp beneath dark skies for a look at the constellations, including dedicated stargazing events.

You can make sure that your caravan or motorhome looks pitch perfect with our guide to preparing your van for summer. Though, if you prefer nights under canvas, don't miss our pick of some of the best new tents launched for the 2021 season.

There are some family-sized crackers! Plus tents for those that require a more modest-sized camp.

Now, where are those tea leaves; here's to getting back to doing what we love, including having a good campsite brew sat outdoors.

Meantime, keep safe and well.

Caroline

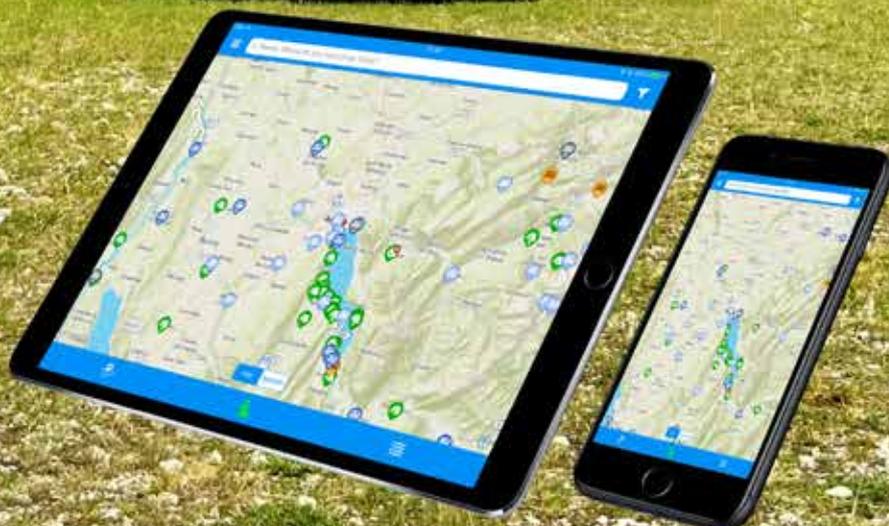
Caroline Mills, Editor



searchforsites

The easy way to find the best motorhome stopovers
and touring campsites in Europe

Find us on the web at searchforsites.co.uk
or follow us at [facebook/searchforsites](https://facebook.com/searchforsites)
You can also download as an app to use offline



Download on the
App Store



GET IT ON
Google Play

Contents



42



62



26

- 6 NEW TENTS
- 26 ALTERNATIVE CAMPSITES
- 42 STARGAZING
- 62 ROLLER TEAM ZEFIRO 665
- 68 INTERVIEW
- 72 VAN MAINTENANCE
- 76 SELF BUILD
- 88 SPANISH BEACHES
- 102 HISTORY
- 104 FORAGING
- 110 SHOPPING



68



6



BE THE ENVY OF
THE CAMPSITE WITH
ONE OF THESE NEW
SEASON TENTS.

TOURING MAGAZINE
TAKES A LOOK AT
WHAT'S NEW IN
THE CANVAS
WORLD

FRESH



EANVAS

In Focus



DOMETIC AIR FRAME SERIES

from £1,062



For 2021, Dometic has redesigned its popular inflatable tent portfolio from the ground up and created a range of premium inflatable camping tents with many features unique to the brand.

Dometic's innovative AIR Frame technology utilises multi-inflation points to ensure a quick and simple, time-saving tent set-up and takedown. Advanced technical cotton and premium 150D polyester materials guarantee comfort and protection from the elements.

The high-specification, robust inflatable tents are available in models for 3 to 6 people and showcase a unique design: a new rear storage area is located behind the inner tents of each model and is ideal for storing luggage, clothes and other bulky items. And, new, stronger inflatable AIR poles allow for more right-angled design to increase the standing area inside, whilst keeping the same footprint.

There are zipped window blinds with easy-store pockets for privacy when needed, darkened inner tents and redesigned mesh ventilation points to keep hot summer days cool.

But, perhaps, our favourite feature are the small fabric folding lines highlighted in Glow orange markers to guide the packing and prevent the end of a camping trip from turning into the ubiquitous packing-away argument. Genius! ■



In Focus



Two new models join Outwell's Superior Air Collection of inflatable family tents for 2021. The additions provide more choice, especially for larger families, as the Jacksonville 5SA and Grandville 8SA sleep up to five and eight people respectively.

With the introduction of new features, better ventilation and a floorplan that improves the outdoor experience, they build on the award-winning success of the Airville 6SA, a six-berth tent in the same range.

Superior Air tents use Outtex® 6000 Pro fabric and the Outwell Power Air System to ensure performance and easy pitching. All components

ensure the tent, can withstand a Force 10 storm, should you get caught camping in one.

There's enhanced ventilation, and 'master' bedrooms, darkened to reduce light for a good night's sleep, plus Quick & Quiet magnetic-close inner doors. Everyone loves the iconic sound of the tent zip but not when you wish to quietly slip through without disturbing slumbering campmates.

With separate bedrooms, large living areas and 'wet' zones for sheltered outdoor living or the place to store outdoor equipment, together with Rain Safe side doors, you'll be able to camp whatever the weather. ■



In Focus



OLPRO ODYSSEY BREEZE

£1,099



The Odyssey Breeze (£1099) is an extra-large, inflatable, 8-berth tent with everything you need from a family tent. It's packed with features, including windows in all the panels that fill the tent with light, so you always have a great view. The tent benefits from a large front enclosed canopy with separate groundsheet and a front door panel that can be completely removed.

The sleeping pod is made with a darkened material enabling a good night's sleep and the zipped-in dividers can be rolled back to make bigger sleeping compartments. A fully sewn in ground sheet keeps all the bugs out. The Odyssey is made from a 150D Oxford fully waterproof material, with a rating of 5000 hydrostatic head and benefits from fully taped seams. The five inflatable beams provide extra stability and extra storm straps are included. The three doors have the benefit of fly mesh screens for added privacy and to protect you from insects. ■

OLPRO RANGER

£125

If you're more adventurer rather than family staycationer, the Ranger (£125) is a trekking and wild camping tent that's designed for use as a backpacking tent. It is made from lightweight material and able to comfortably sleep 2 people. The outer flysheet design is ideal for pitching your tent in bad weather whilst keeping the 2-man inner tent area dry. The waterproof Ripstop polyester with 5000mm hydrostatic head and sewn in groundsheet will keep you warm and dry in all weather.

The tent includes a 2-berth bedroom inner tent with a zip door and fly mesh; it also has a handy storage compartment accessed via a small door at the back of the inner tent. The lightweight alloy poles, pegs and overall design makes it ideal for walkers, cyclists, wild campers and motorcyclists. ■







OUTDOOR REVOLUTION OF

Outdoor Revolution's flagship Ozone 8.0 Safari Lodge is the latest addition to the high specification Ozone collection. This premium inflatable Six-plus-Six berth tunnel tent can comfortably accommodate up to twelve adults, using three optional two-berth inner tents.

The Ozone 8.0 Safari Lodge integrates every popular innovation found on its predecessor, such as the double width side access doors on each side of the tent, the unique sewn-in front porch groundsheet, a wealth of mesh ventilation including a removable central door panel with mesh windows, and darker 'Twilight' bedroom inners to name a few. One important feature of this tent is the separation of bedroom options, effectively offering a total of four completely detached and separate sleeping areas, great for families or groups who want their own space.

An optional front porch extension canopy and side veranda canopy extension can be purchased to create a central commune area, making it perfect for winding down with friends and family. ■





-ZONE 8.0 SAFARI LODGE



Outdoor Revolution also supplies a large range of camping accessories. We've picked out the new 4-in-1 Lumi-Solar Fan Lantern. The Solar/USB rechargeable 4 in 1 LED lantern light, fan and powerbank makes it a modern day camping essential! This fantastic accessory can be suspended from any of the designated hanging points in your tent or awning using an integral hanging hook and is also perfect for handheld use. It has three brightness settings, ranging from a faint night light to a brilliant ceiling light, and a Mosquito safe amber light. The large fan features three speed options, to help you maintain a comfortable temperature. A USB port allows you to charge up this lantern overnight, or charge electrical devices, such as mobile phones, when not in use. ■



In Focus

ADVENTURE

ROBEENS

from £580





Balancing performance, size and weight, the latest Adventure range of Robens tents is a good choice for active families and groups wanting space in which to enjoy life outdoors. The five new tents benefit from a complete makeover, with a light, natural two-tone colourway blending in with the surroundings to allow impact-free close engagement with nature on campsites or wild camping. The tents are made from HydroTex HD polyester - the award-winning Scandinavian company's own unique strong and durable lightweight fabric. The 75-denier high-density, PU-coated polyester has a 5000mm hydrostatic head waterproof rating and is treated with UV-inhibitors for all-weather protection.

In addition, the completely new three-tent TC Adventure range should be considered by campers looking for high-end features. It builds on the versatile options of the evolved Adventure range by using an enhanced HydroTex Polycotton RS fabric to maintain a comfortable tent microclimate for all-weather performance - especially when used in warmer climates. Common features include adaptive inners, 3-layer windows, rear and low vents that control air flow.

We particularly like the Wolf Moon tent, with a large extended porch to maximise sheltered living space but with toggle-back sides to gain the best close-to-nature views. ■

In Focus



EASY CAMP MOONLIGHT TIPI/YURT

from £166



The Easy Camp brand is aimed at newcomers to camping, including those that have never really thought of themselves as campers. And there's a definite cool-ness about the brand's new Easy Glamping range of tents. The all-new, eye-catching range is fun-loving, with a choice of Moonlight Tipi and Moonlight Yurt. Plus, there's a selection of great looking, coordinating furniture.

Sleeping up to eight 'glampers' in a classic, fast-pitching design with a central steel pole, the Moonlight Tipi (£166) offers the size and freedom for families and friends to create intimate spaces, connecting them with the natural world and having fun outdoors. Double-slide zips and a full mesh door behind provide versatile opening and easy access while a mesh vent at the apex ensures ample bug-free ventilation.

Meantime, the pre-angled poles used in the Easy Camp Moonlight Yurt (£220) ensure full headroom throughout. PVC windows deliver internal light, with toggle-up curtains for privacy while easy access is guaranteed through the wide entrance. The bunting is included!

Add the cosy deep-padded Moonlight chair for a fireside snuggle, get a good night's sleep on the Moonlight Bed or daydream the day away in the polycotton Moonlight Hammock.

In Focus



ISABELLA CAMPING CHAIRS

from £49

If your camping chairs are looking a bit mothballed after a year in storage, perhaps you have in mind to start afresh. You'll find Danish brand Isabella has a huge range of equipment that's renowned for its quality, aimed at the high-end camping market.

Instead of spreading out the towel, you can bag yourself a spot on the beach with Isabella's Beach Chair, a low-sitting aluminium-framed chair that can be adjusted into 8 positions. The padded headrest and armrests allow for a comfortable outdoor snooze.

It's not one for sitting up at the dining table, however, so for luxurious dining in your tent, opt for the Thor Chair, available in Light Grey, Dark Grey or Blue. Like the Beach Chair, it, too, has a padded headrest and armrests, and can also be adjusted into 8 positions. So, you can always have an afternoon siesta beyond lunch.



In Focus



DISCOVER MORE

www.outwell.com
www.olproshop.com
www.dometic.com/en-gb/uk/lp/outdoors
www.easycamp.com
www.outdoor-revolution.com
www.robens.de/en-gb/shop/outdoor-tents
www.isabella.net
www.shop.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/activity-gear

ORDNANCE SURVEY OUTDOOR GEAR

from £5.99

Whether looking for kit to brighten up camp or for days out in the hills, by the lake, in the saddle... whatever takes your fancy, we're very taken with the brand new OS Official Outdoor Gear Range. From trek towels to map cases, there's plenty to help you be outdoors. Our pick of the products include the Brecon Beacons Picnic Rug (£39.99), a family size waterproof picnic rug that is the perfect companion for hiking through the Brecon Beacons - or anywhere on the globe. Its compact and lightweight design makes it easy to stow away so it's ideal for walkers, cyclists, and campers. It includes its own stuff sack, convenient for carrying or storing.

Or you could opt for the OS Ben Nevis Large Towel (£24.99) which is super soft, lightweight, highly absorbent, and dries 8 times faster than the average towel. This travel towel is made from highly absorbent soft fibre material, making it both practical and nice to the touch. The Polygene permanent odour control helps keep down smells (especially useful with furry pets). There are other designs available (High Peak, Scafell Pike etc.)

Handy when you're out and about, the OS Dry Bag (£16.99) is waterproof and can be used inside a rucksack or on its own, using its handy adjustable carrying strap. Its 25-litre capacity gives enough room for a couple of maps, a mobile phone, a jumper, a wallet, extra socks, and still leaves space for a few more essential items. It also keeps water in, ideal for keeping muddy dog towels, wet trousers, or soaked hats away from the rest of your gear. It's made from a tough ripstop nylon with taped seams. To seal, simply fold over the top two or three times and clip the buckles together. And, just to prove to yourself your love of the great outdoors, add a set of these OS GetOutside Enamel Mugs to your camping kit. Priced at £5.99 for one, the mugs have a lightweight and durable design that means it's easy to take with you on the go and its vibrant colour makes sure you never need to worry about losing this cup in the grass - even if you're camping trip is at the bottom of your garden.





ALTRNA CA



CAN'T BOOK A PITCH AT A CAMPSITE FOR YOUR SUMMER STAYCATION? TRY ONE OF THESE ALTERNATIVES, SAYS **CAROLINE MILLS**

TIVE MPING



Gilfachwydd CL

It's no rumour that the UK is awaiting a staycation camping boom this summer. It will be a follow-on from 2020 when many campsites, despite multiple lockdown restrictions and reduced capacity to maintain social distancing when open, had their best season ever.

I've spoken to many campsites in recent days and weeks; within 48 hours of Prime Minister Boris Johnson announcing the proposed road-map for England to return to some sense of normality beyond 'Lockdown 3', one campsite in Cornwall had so many booking requests, they were struggling to cope with the demand. Another, in the Peak District, had received 500 bookings in less than 48 hours.

This is great news for campsites and the leisure industry economy. But, for those longing to go camping again - or camping for the first time - after a lengthy spell tucked up at home, the frustration to find a campsite pitch only to find everywhere fully booked all season may boil over and create headlines for the wrong reasons.

Wild camping is not allowed in England, Wales and Northern Ireland; in Scotland the Outdoor Access Code allows some wild camping in a tent on open access land while motorhomes are tolerated sporadically. If the system is abused, with anti-social habits such as rubbish dumped illegally, or motorhomes poorly parked, clogging up infrastructure, the headlines will turn heads and give camping a bad reputation.

There are alternatives, many of which you may prefer for the 2021 season.



Certified Sites

Throughout the UK there are thousands of small, licensed sites known as Certificated Locations (CL) or Certificated Sites (CS). These are privately-owned campsites licensed, respectively, by the Caravan & Motorhome Club and the Camping & Caravanning Club. In order to book a pitch and use them, you must be a member of the relevant club.

The sites are licensed to have no more than five touring caravans/motorhomes staying at any one time and on many sites you'll find you have more space per vehicle than at touring parks. Many →



Priestfield Grange Farm CL

UK Touring

“On many CL and CS sites you’ll find you have more space per vehicle than at touring parks”

Certificated Sites also allow tent camping.

Facilities at CLs and CSs vary greatly; it may simply be an unmown farmer’s field with a fresh water tap. Others offer hardstanding pitches, electric hook-ups and additional facilities such as showers and toilets, although, owners may have made the decision to keep such amenities closed this year.

The more flexible you can be, the more chance you’ll have of booking a pitch – sites without electric hook-ups tend to be less popular than those with facilities. Prices vary, but CLs and CSs can often provide an inexpensive way to camp.

Bookings are made privately with the individual sites (club members receive an annual handbook listing all licensed sites). If you’re on Facebook, there’s an easier way to find a small Certificated Location than ringing them up and leaving a message.

Around 350 CL owners contribute to a Facebook Group for CAMC members called ‘CL Booking’. The group acts as a ‘dating agency’ between members looking for a site and CL owners, with posts typically saying, for example, “Looking for 4 nights at the end of August in the New Forest area, would prefer EHU”; CL Owners can respond offering pitches and also highlight last-minute cancellations. The group is kept tightly

‘on-topic’ by a team of moderators - all CL owners themselves and has proven phenomenally successful.

There are other organisations that license small, privately-owned sites, all of which require membership in order to be able to book a pitch.

These include the Greener Camping Club, mostly for tent camping and some glamping, and The Motor Caravanners Club, which, as its name implies, offers membership to those with ownership or use of a campervan or motorhome. →





Gartfairn Farm CL



Mewslade View CL

A scenic view of a pond with reeds and a camper in the background. The pond is filled with water, reflecting the sky and the surrounding greenery. In the foreground, there are tall reeds and lily pads. In the background, there are dense trees and a white camper parked on a sandy bank. The sky is a clear, light blue.

“Prices vary, but CL
and CS sites can often
provide an inexpensive
way to camp”

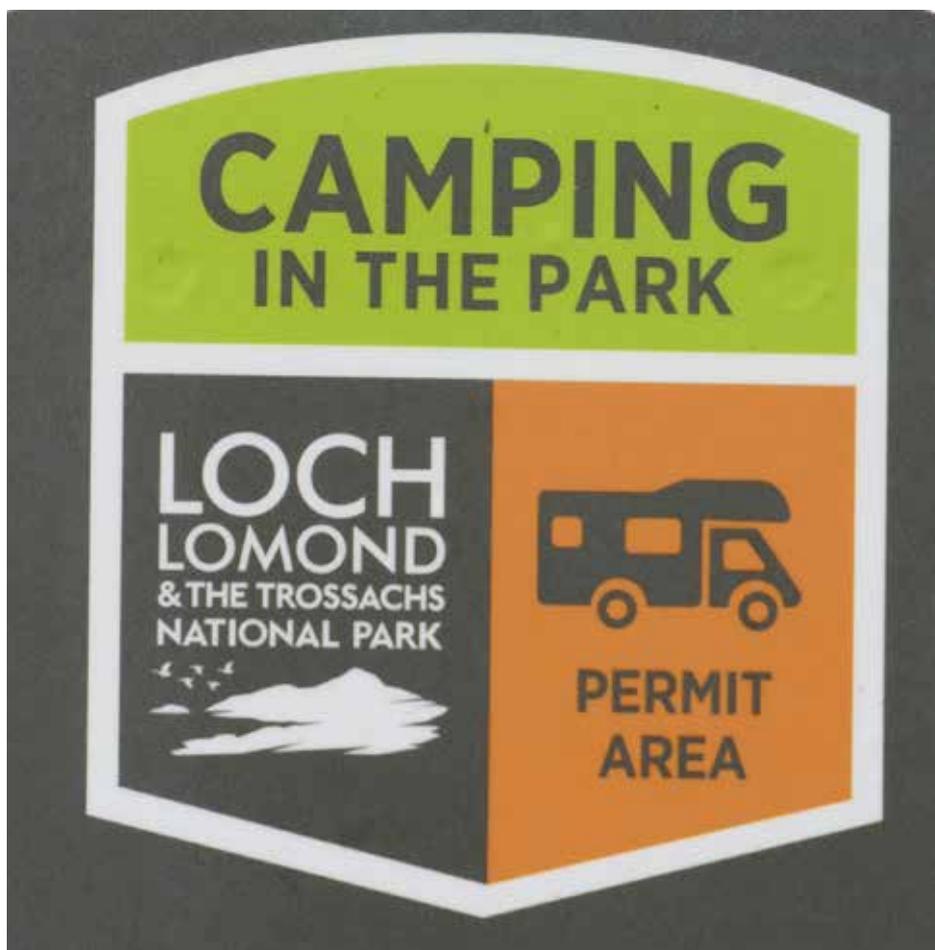


“Tents and motorhomes
may book to camp ‘wild’ in certain
places across Loch Lomond and
The Trossachs National Park”



The beauty of Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park, where permissive wild camping is allowed in dedicated Camping Management Zones

©Caroline Mills



The High Road

Though wild camping is generally permitted across Scotland, the area around Loch Lomond implements a Camping Management Zone throughout the months of March to November, whereby tents and motorhomes may book to camp 'wild' in certain places across Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park. It's a great way to experience the freedom of camping away from designated campsites with the opportunity to appreciate the beauty of your surroundings in a carefully managed way. There are 30 locations within the park, with loch-side pitches at, among others, Loch Lomond and within the Queen Elizabeth Forest Park. Your spot must be pre-booked online in advance and your permit displayed during your stay, which can be for up to three nights. What's more, a permit costs just £3 per night! →

Balquhider Glen, one location Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park providing Camping Management Zone permitted spaces to camp

©Caroline Mills

The Beaulieu Estate, where
The Caravan & Motorhome
Club will host a pop-up
campsite this summer

“The Caravan &
Motorhome Club
is creating a series of
pop-up campsites for
its members set in
stunning locations”



Pop-up Camping



The Caravan & Motorhome Club has recognised that its 200+ Club Sites will prove especially popular and be exceptionally busy throughout 2021. To help cater for demand, the organisation is creating a series of pop-up campsites for its members set in stunning locations during the summer. The first of the planned campsites to be announced are at Beaulieu Motor Museum, Hampshire, and Beale Park, Berkshire.

Brian Morgan, Head of Communications and Events at the Caravan and Motorhome Club, says: "The Club's pop-up campsites are always located in green fields at top UK locations, and they offer a unique touring experience. Our in-house team of experts take great care to ensure all pitches are suitable for both caravans and motorhomes. We also do all we can to place family and friends together and create a more informal relaxed environment which helps to create a reassuring community feel, perfect for beginners. Plus, we partner with local attractions to offer members top discounts and exclusive experiences along with working with local activity centres, food vendors and businesses to create a truly special holiday destination. Our team is on hand to help anyone new to touring or new to pop-up campsites."

Beaulieu is one of southern England's top family days out including the National Motor Museum, Palace House and Gardens, Beaulieu Abbey and World

of Top Gear. The Museum is also home to the Club's Archive.

The Pop-up campsite, which will take place from 2nd to 29th July, is within the grounds of the Beaulieu Estate, in a secluded field surrounded by trees. The pop-up campsite is on the doorstep to the main entrance to the Museum, and is at most, a five minute walk.

Beale Park is an outdoor wildlife park within 30 acres set against the River Thames in Berkshire. A home to an exciting mix of animals and attractions. Pangbourne village is just two miles away, and has a host of shops, cafés and pubs set on the bank of the river Thames. The Pop-up campsite, which will be open from 26th July to 22nd August, is within the grounds of the Beale Estate, in a secluded field right next to the river Thames, and is a short five minute walk to the main entrance of the Wildlife Park.

Pop-up campsites offer many of the same facilities as a Club site, the main difference being they are temporary and everything is built from scratch. All pop-up campsites will offer facilities such as electric hook-ups, fresh water, toilets, showers (Covid-19 status and location dependant), waste disposal and recycling. All pitches adhere to the highest fire safety regulations and measure 10m x 11m and can accommodate touring caravans, campervans and motorhomes with/without an awning. →





Temporary Sites

A Temporary Site organised
by The Camping &
Caravanning Club

©Alisdair Cusick

One of the perks of membership of the Camping and Caravanning Club is the opportunity to make use of its social camping facilities, such as Meets and Temporary Holidays Sites (THSs). These are run exclusively for Club members and can be found across the UK in holiday destinations, seaside resorts and in the heart of the countryside. Many have very basic facilities and campers usually need to be self-contained, but some will have facilities such as access to toilets, showers and electric hook-ups. Prices start from £7.50 per unit per night, which offers great value for money. It is possible for non-members to join and stay on a THS, as members may also bring along a guest to stay in their unit for a small fee.

Club Meets are held over a weekend while THSs are run over a number of weeks. All have the same thing in common: a friendly and welcoming atmosphere on site and a real sense of community and helping one another out – they are run by members for members. Search for ‘Social Camping’ on the Club website to find out more.

In a typical year more than 2,000 Meets and over 460 THSs take place across the UK and last anywhere from up to five days for Meets, and between six and 28 days for THSs. An example of a popular Temporary Holiday Site taking place →



“Camping and Caravanning Club Meets have a friendly and welcoming atmosphere on site and a real sense of community”



UK Touring

this summer is one run by Leeds District Association at Monks Farm, Whitby from 2nd to 30th August with pitches at just £9.50 per night.

All are operated and run by Club Regions, District Associations (DAs) or Special Interest Sections made up of voluntary Club members who organise temporary camping events such as these, often with entertainment and activities planned including charity fundraising events (when current restrictions permit). On arriving at a Meet or THS, campers will be met by the event steward(s), who is responsible for managing on-site safety, marking out pitches and taking payment for the stay. The Club ensures all its temporary campsites adhere to important criteria such as allowing a gap of at least six metres between each unit, safe access to and from the campsite, a drinking water supply, a dustbin that's regularly emptied, and a facility for campers to empty their chemical toilet.

Special Interest sections are Camping and Caravanning Club units that hold their own Meets and THSs, and bring together people with a common hobby, interest or camping unit (such as a trailer tent).

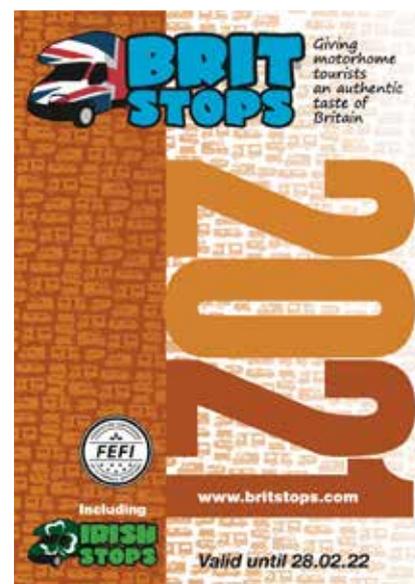
For example the Canoe-Camping Club is for canoers and kayakers, the Photographic Group is for people who enjoy getting behind the lens of a camera, while the Walking and Cycling Section is just as it sounds – for people who enjoy the fresh air and exercise of a hike or a bike ride. There are nine in total; more information can be found on the Club website under the Special Interest Section.

Club members can find out when and where Club Meets and THSs are taking place by visiting the website, or via the Club app, to search for social camping events taking place this summer.



If you own or plan to rent a motorhome for your touring holiday, there are more possibilities for overnight stays. BritStops are one-night stopovers exclusively for motorhomes. Having purchased an annual guide, you can stay free-of-charge at country pubs, farm shops, vineyards, craft centres etc, with the idea that you might choose to buy an evening meal, purchase a jar of honey or a bottle of wine (although there is no obligation). You must have your own facilities on board, as your hosts do not provide these. There are more than 1000 hosts from which to select your stay in the 2021 guide, which is valid for use through until the end of February 2022.

While wild camping is against the law in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, there are some locations where local authorities permit overnight parking/sleeping in a campervan/motorhome that is fully self-contained, providing no





En-route in Cumbria, vans may park up overnight at Tebay Services, on the M6

'camping' takes place (ie erection of awnings, or placing camping furniture outside). Most oftentimes these are merely designated spaces for motorhomes within existing parking areas, such as Torridge District Council, which permits overnight parking in five of its car parks in North Devon, including popular locations such as Bideford, Appledore and Westward Ho! for £5 per night.

There are also a growing number of aires, much like those seen across Continental Europe, particularly France and Germany, establishing throughout the UK that are for the exclusive use of motorhomes.

They are small in number by comparison to the vast infrastructure on the Continent, however, the Campaign for Real Aires (CAMpRA) is campaigning to promote Motorhome Tourism and the development of motorhome aires for safe, off-road overnight parking in the UK. A useful place to search for designated motorhome parking areas – along with thousands of other campsites and camping locations – is the Search for Sites website/app. •

“There are a growing number of aires, like those seen across Continental Europe, throughout the UK”

DISCOVER MORE

www.camc.com

www.campingandcaravanningclub.co.uk

www.greenercamping.org

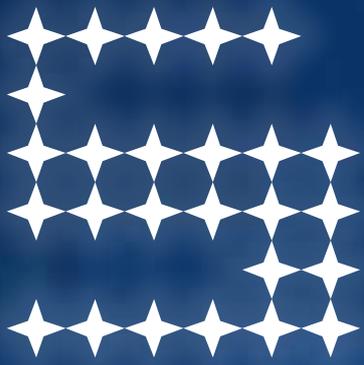
www.themotorcaravannersclub.co.uk

www.lochlomond-trossachs.org/things-to-do/camping/get-a-permit/

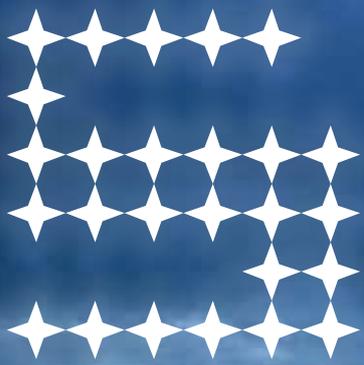
www.bristops.com

www.campra.org.uk

www.searchforsites.co.uk



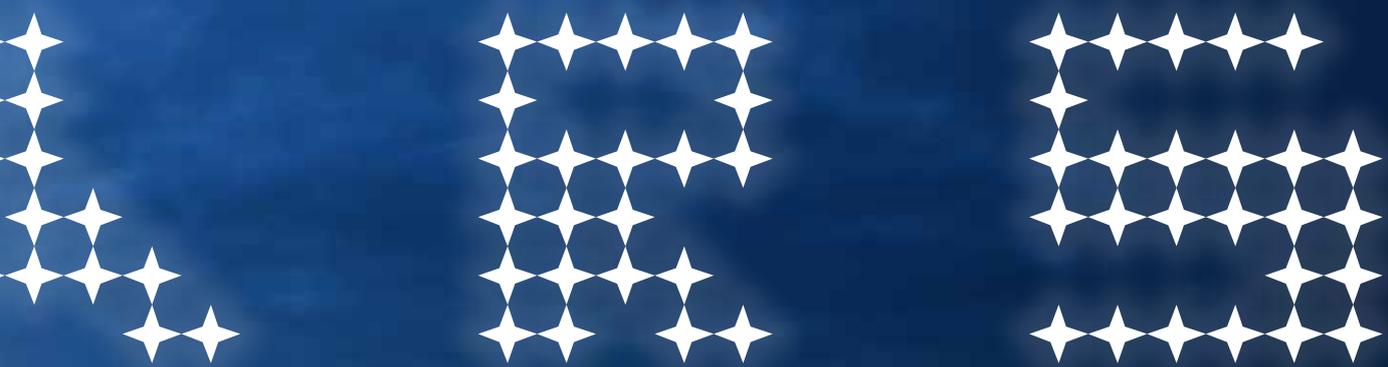
WITH A WEALTH OF DARK SKY RESERVES AND PARKS, **TOURING MAGAZINE**



Ballinskelligs, one of the locations for stargazing in the Kerry International Dark Sky Reserve



NE LOOKS AT WHERE TO GO STARGAZING ACROSS THE UK AND IRELAND



There's something rather special about sitting outside your tent or van as dusk falls, and looking up at the night sky to work out the shapes and patterns of all those twinkling lights. Constellations like the Plough, Orion's Belt, and the Little Bear (or Ursa Minor to give it an official title) along with the Pole Star have all become a part of our psyche. And with the rise in popularity of Dark Sky spaces, the desire to look at the night sky also increases.

So, what if you want to see more than you can with the naked eye, or your campsite is situated in a brightly lit area, with the sodium glow of streetlights affecting your vision of the night sky? Head to a Dark Sky site – the UK has lots of them.

DARK SKY PLACES

You may have heard of Dark Sky Parks or Reserves. The International Dark Sky Association, as part of a conservation programme against light pollution, awards areas of land with a designated dark sky status. There are five designations in all, with Sanctuaries being the most remote (and hence darkest) places in the world, followed by Reserves where a dark 'core' zone is protected against light pollution from a surrounding area of population. International Dark Sky Parks are places that are specifically protected for a purpose (natural conservation or cultural heritage for example) and can demonstrate (it's measured!) a high quality of star density due to the lack of light pollution. Public access is an essential prerequisite.

There are just 18 certified International Dark Sky Reserves in the world but 8 of them are in the UK – the Brecon Beacons, Exmoor, South Downs, Snowdonia, North York Moors and Yorkshire Dales National Parks are all designated, as is Cranborne Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, in Dorset. Kerry, in Ireland, also has Reserve status.

There are more International Dark Sky Parks around the world with locations in Scotland, England and Wales. Meanwhile, Dark Sky Discovery Sites are places recognised as being good for stargazing, nominated and selected from within the UK.

We've put together a collection of great places to go stargazing, which includes national parks, observatories and campsites. Many locations offer events or activities where you can find out more about the night sky and understand what you see, either with the naked eye or through the eye of a telescope.

Exmoor National Park was the first designated International Dark Sky Reserve in Europe

©Exmoor Tourism/Adrian Cubitt





Exmoor National Park is home to some of the darkest skies in England with low light pollution and was the first designated International Dark Sky Reserve in Europe. Good spots are Holdstone Hill, County Gate, Brendon Two Gates, Webbers Post, Anstey Gate, Haddon Hill and Wimbleball Lake. Exmoor's night sky is simply stunning when many astronomical sights can be seen by the naked eye and even more can be discovered through a telescope or binoculars. You can find local stargazing experience providers at www.visit-exmoor.co.uk, while the annual Exmoor Dark Skies Festival, held in October, offers a range of tours, activities and stargazing events for all ages.

Visitors can embark on a Land Rover safari at dusk to discover the magical sights and sounds of the National Park during the festival, as well as some of its myths and legends. Stargazing walks and educational sessions are some of the other activities set to be available, alongside guided ranger walks and astronomy presentations. Those wishing to learn more about the magnificent surroundings and the skies above them can also join several virtual events and talks, or visit some of the region's farms to mix stargazing with a chance to sample the delicacies of the harvest. Telescopes are also available for hire.

Stay: Touring pitches or glamping pods at picturesque Wimbleball Lake Campsite (www.outdoorandactive.uk.com), an Exmoor Dark Sky Friendly Accredited accommodation provider.



Main: Exmoor National Park

Shutterstock

Inset: Wimbleball Lake Campsite





England's youngest National Park, the South Downs (www.southdowns.gov.uk), is also an International Dark Sky Reserve, with the status awarded in 2016. According to the International Dark-Sky Association, it "offers authentically dark night-time outdoor experiences to over ten million people who live within a two-hour journey of the Downs". There's a Beginner's Guide to Stargazing available on the National Park's website.

Five miles from the eastern tip of the national park is Herstmonceux Castle, the site of the original Greenwich Observatory and now the Observatory Science Centre (www.the-observatory.org). There's hands-on science and discovery among the domes and telescopes of this world-famous astronomical observatory, with an extensive programme of events and activities.

Stay: Five-minutes' walk from the observatory is the site of Big Sky Tipi Holidays (www.bigskytipiholidays.co.uk), its location deliberately selected for its clear skies, free from light pollution. Sit out on a beanbag to watch the stars then retreat to the comfort of your hand-painted Sioux Indian tipi.



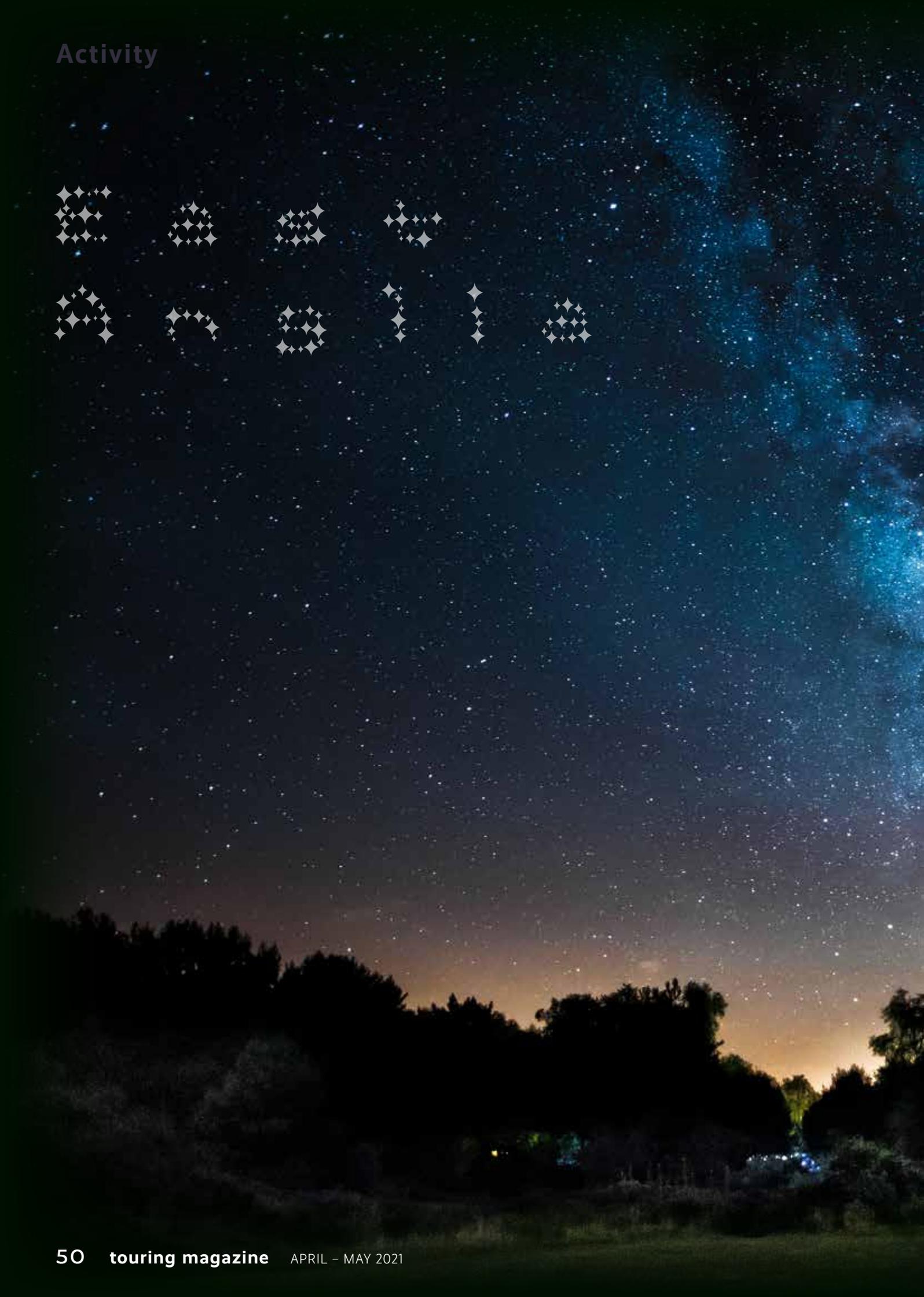
Main: The South Downs National Park, one of the world family of International Dark Sky Reserves

©SDNPA/Sean Lewis

Inset: Big Tipi Sky Holidays

©Jamie White





A one-time base for BBC Stargazing Live and set in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Kelling Heath, on the North Norfolk coast, is considered one of the best places in the UK to sleep under the stars and catch sight of the cosmos. Official star parties are held in April and in September with hundreds of amateur astronomers meeting up for a weekend of observing and events. But, owing to the lack of light pollution, there's a good chance of glimpsing the galaxy all year round.

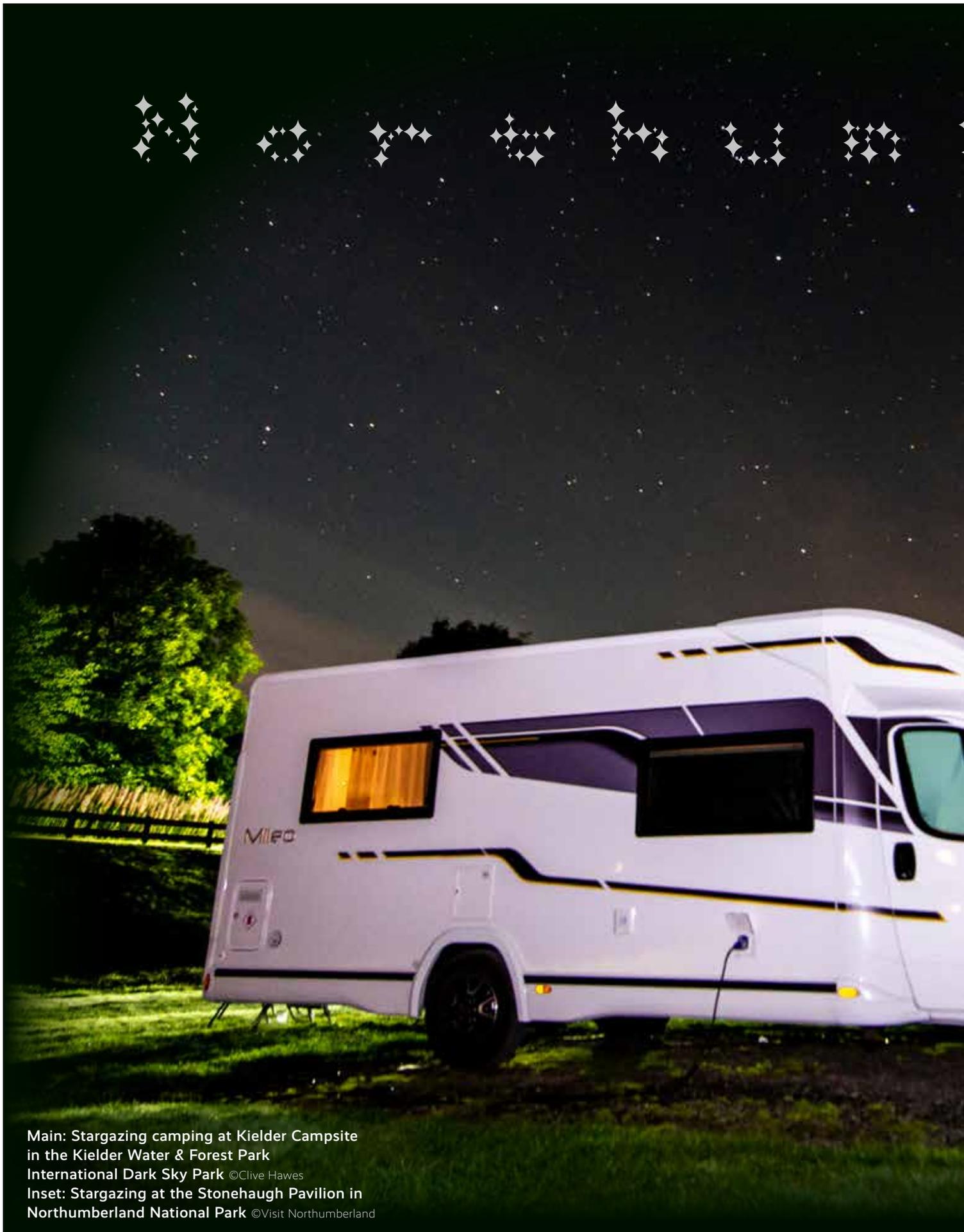
Stay: Kelling Heath Holiday Park (www.kellingheath.co.uk), a 300-acre camping park that has Dark Sky Discovery Site status. You can pick up a free Stargazing Starchart Guide from Reception and follow the waymark signs to the Dark Sky Discovery Site.



Main: A passing meteor travelling through the Milky Way over Kelling Heath

©Matthew Mallett

Inset: Kelling Heath Holiday Park



Main: Stargazing camping at Kielder Campsite
in the Kielder Water & Forest Park
International Dark Sky Park ©Clive Hawes
Inset: Stargazing at the Stonehaugh Pavilion in
Northumberland National Park ©Visit Northumberland



Kielder Water and Forest Park in the Northumberland National Park is also known to have some of the darkest skies in the UK. At 572 square miles, and with International Dark Sky Park status, it is one of Europe's largest areas of protected night sky. Within the park, the furthest object you can see with your naked eye is the Andromeda Galaxy – a vast island of stars very similar to our own Milky Way. You'll also see meteors well with the naked eye here but for something extra, head to Kielder Observatory. It's an iconic building in its own right, hosting public events throughout the year. Alternatively, visitors to the park can search for constellations from the comfort of the Stonehaugh Stargazing Pavilion, which comes with star maps for easy spotting.

Kielder Campsite, the closest campsite to Kielder Observatory, hosts a spring and autumn Starcamp, with amazing views of the night sky while lying out in your van or tent.

Stay: Stonehaugh Campsite (www.stonehaughcampsite.com), 10-minutes walk from the Stonehaugh Stargazing Pavilion or Kielder Campsite (www.kieldercampsite.co.uk).



Activity



In December 2020 the Yorkshire Dales and North York Moors National Parks became the latest designated International Dark Sky Reserves in the UK, with some of the very darkest skies possible and no severe light pollution. Three places in particular are recognised as special sites on the North York Moors: the two National Park Centres at Sutton Bank and Danby, plus Dalby Observatories in Dalby Forest have been named as Dark Sky Discovery Sites. Other places in the National Park are also recognised as great places for stargazing, including Rievaulx Terrace where the National Trust sometimes hosts night walks and stargazing events.

The National Park website (www.northyorkmoors.org.uk/discover/dark-skies) also indicates excellent locations for Night Sky photography, plus where to go and what to see. For stargazing, games and activities, head to the Dark Skies Fringe Festival an event organized between both the Yorkshire Dales and North York Moors National Parks every autumn (second to its sister event, the Dark Skies Festival held in February). Meantime, Starfest is an annual 3-night star camp held every August in Dalby Forest, with camping talks and events for amateur astronomers.

Stay: Glamping and camping at Pexton Moor Farm (www.dalby-forest.co.uk), on the edge of Dalby Forest.



Main: The Milky Way above Dalby Forest

©NYMNP/Stuart Atkinson

Inset: Pexton Moor Farm



The Isle of Man has 26 Dark Sky Discovery Sites

©www.visitisleofman.com

The Isle of Man (www.visitisleofman.com) has been recognised for its almost complete lack of light pollution and sky clarity. A clear night on the island means guests can spot a series of astronomical sights with the naked eye, using telescopes and binoculars to enhance their stargazing experience further. Plus, the crystal clear northern horizon from the Island's northeast coast means the famous Northern Lights (Aurora Borealis) can also be sighted frequently. The island is currently home to 26 Dark Sky Discovery Sites.

Stay: There are 13 campsites on the Isle of Man. Cronk Aashen Farm Campsite (www.cronkaashen.co.uk) is on a working sheep farm at Kirk Michael, and has magnificent views.



Snowdonia International Dark Sky Reserve

©VisitBritain/Kris Williams

Wales is increasingly emerging as one of the best countries in the world for stargazing! The Brecon Beacons (www.breconbeacons.org/stargazing) became the country's first International Dark Sky Reserve in 2012, and there are dozens of places around the National Park where visitors can see spectacularly clear skies, from the central Visitor Centre – conveniently accessible from all of the South Wales valleys – to the country park and castle at Craig-y-nos.

Snowdonia National Park (www.eryri-npa.gov.uk) became Wales' second destination to be awarded International Dark Sky Reserve status, in 2015. With an area of more than 800 square miles and more than 90 peaks – there are plenty of places to observe the night sky but five in particular are noted on the national park's website, with top tips for astrophotography..

And the Elan Valley (www.elanvalley.org.uk/darkskies) in the Cambrian Mountains has been awarded International Dark Sky Park status. The 45,000-acre estate is protected against light pollution for the benefit of visitors as well as those who live and work there. There are 9 Dark Sky Discovery Sites in the Cambrian Mountains, too, with an Astro-Trail that begins just 3 miles from Dark Skies Camping. The exclusive campsite, offers more than an acre per pitch and, as its name suggests, offers some of the best stargazing opportunities from any campsite in the UK.

Stay: Gwern Gof Isaf [right] (www.gwerngofisaf.co.uk), close to the Gwydir Forest and Llyn Geirionnydd, considered one of the best sites in Snowdonia for stargazing, or Dark Skies Camping [left] (www.darks skiescamping.wales)



Activity

Ireland's only designated International Dark Sky Reserve is 270 square miles of County Kerry (www.kerrydarkskytourism.com). The International Dark Sky Association regards the area to be an exceptional nocturnal location, with minimal pollution allowing extraordinary views of the Milky Way and zodiacal light.

Keen sky watchers should be able to see many more stars than are shown on the usual sky maps, so many in fact, that many seasoned astronomers are taken aback, and at first struggle to look for even the more familiar constellations. It's also possible to hire a Star Guide locally, to help to get the most out of a stargazing trip. You can get to Kerry using the Pembroke to Rosslare crossing with Irish Ferries (www.irishferries.com).

Stay: Wave Crest Camping [right] (www.wavecrestcamping.com), on the southwest coast with stunning sea views and open all year.



Stargazing





The Scottish Dark Sky Observatory
in Galloway Forest Park
©VisitScotland



Moffat's designation as Europe's first "Dark Sky Town" will add to Scotland's astronomical allure. The Dumfries and Galloway town joined Coll, the first "Dark Sky Island" in Europe, and Galloway Forest Park, an International Dark Sky Park as some of the best places to study the sky at night. On the edge of the forest park is the Scottish Dark Sky Observatory (www.scottishdarkskyobservatory.co.uk), a four-star VisitScotland attraction, which enables visitors to learn about the wonders of the universe.

Further north, the Tomintoul & Glenlivet Dark Sky Park (www.cairngormsdarkskypark.org), in the Cairngorms National Park is the most northerly such park in the world. There are hosted astronomy events held throughout the year and you might be lucky enough to spot the Aurora.

Stay: Loch Doon Caravan Park [right], a turn up and pay campsite that's within walking distance of the Scottish Dark Sky Observatory, or Glentool Camping & Caravan Site [left] (www.glen-troolcampingandcaravansite.co.uk) is situated in the beautiful Galloway Forest Park, with fabulous opportunities to gaze at the starry night sky from your pitch.



DISCOVER MORE

April 5th to 12th is International Dark Sky Week. Find out what's on from the following organisations:

International Dark Sky Association

www.darksky.org

British Astronomical Association

www.britastro.org

Dark Sky Discovery

www.darkskydiscovery.org.uk

Go Stargazing

www.gostargazing.co.uk

Dark Skies National Parks

www.darksniesnationalparks.org.uk

Need a great base from which to stargaze? Take a look at our feature on motorhomes with pop-up roofs in the February/March 2021 issue of *Touring Magazine*. You can snuggle up in your 'upstairs' roof bed, the perfect place from which to enjoy the night sky.



Knaus Boxstar 600 Street



HIGH R

Family tours just got easier for those that like to spend



OLLER

time outdoors, with the Zefiro 665 from RollerTeam [➔](#)



Italian brand Roller Team has long been known for its value for money motorhomes, offering some of the lowest-cost coachbuilt leisure vehicles that allow families the chance to get away.

For 2021, the brand has introduced a new layout in its Zefiro range, the 665, taking the line-up to a choice of 6 layouts. The 665 is a four-berth, low-profile model with transverse fixed bed at the rear and a drop-down double bed, too.

EXTERIOR

The Zefiro utilises the Ford Transit as its base vehicle, which has more of a bull nose than the Fiat Ducato. It gives the vehicle a really sturdy appearance and makes its presence felt when the 'Moondust Silver' coloured cab is utilised. It's a cost option; white is the standard cab colour.

The low-profile body of the motorhome slopes neatly over the top of the cab, where an opening sky-roof window is fitted as standard. Red, black and silver decals along the side of the van give it a sporty look.



LIVING & SLEEPING

From the nearside habitation door, close to the front of the van, there's a step up into the main living area where you'll find an L-shaped sofa (with travelling seatbelts) and a side sofa-style seat that's best suited to one adult or two small children. The cab seats rotate to create a communal dining area, with a good-sized pedestal table to sit around. Light comes in from the overhead sky-roof and offside window. Lounge carpets are a cost option but, if you're travelling as a young family, you may well find the easy-clean wood-effect flooring is better.

Standard furnishings utilise 'Paolo', a smart, two-tone black and white faux leather. There's a cost option to select 'Maria', a flecked charcoal fabric with dark-grey faux leather surround and this, in our opinion, would be the better choice for young families.

An electrically-operated drop-down double bed fits snugly over the living area while, at the rear of the van, there's a sumptuously-sized double bed that's all ready to climb in the moment your pillow is calling. →





KITCHEN

The angled kitchen sits on the offside in the middle of the van. A 3-burner gas hob utilises the corner space well, and next to this, a circular stainless-steel sink. There is some preparation space beside the sink but it's limited so busy cooks might need to use the dining table for much more than a chopping board.

Beneath the worksurface is a combination oven/grill and an excellent full-depth storage cupboard with shelving. The slimline fridge/freezer sits to the right of the worksurface with easy access and will have sufficient space to cater for a family of four.

Overhead storage cupboards will store crocks easily while a small spice rack attached to the wall sorts out your condiments.

WASHROOM

The 665's washroom is by no means the largest you'll find in any motorhome, but it is functional. Everything is here - a cassette toilet, wash basin and shower with bi-fold door - but it is in a very compact space. If you prefer using your own facilities, or need to be touring off-grid, its compactness might not be for you. But, if you plan to stay at campsites and use site facilities most of the time, with the occasional night-time loo-break in the van, you'll have no problem using this





Roller Team Zefiro 665

Roller Team Motorhomes UK

www.rollerteammotorhomes.co.uk

FINAL SAY...

This is certainly a motorhome for families that like to be outdoors. In addition to the large rear storage space for bulky gear, a bike carrier for 4 bikes is fitted to the rear as standard. There's a 120W solar panel on the roof and the van provides space for two gas bottles (up to 15kg), plenty to remain off-grid for several weeks in summer. In winter, the 6kW Truma Combi heater/boiler kicks in to keep you toasty warm after a chilly day outdoors.

You may wish to opt for the Driver's Pack, a £1500 extra that includes cab air-con, electrically operated mirrors and cruise control, passenger airbag, Bluetooth, steering wheel radio controls and cab carpets. But don't worry about reversing - a rear camera and monitor are fitted as standard!

At 6.41 metres, the Zefiro 665 is compact and manageable enough to drive and park easily, but spacious enough for pleasant indoor living. For budget buys, it's a real contender. Take a look! ●

washroom. There's an opening window behind the toilet bowl, and a small overhead cupboard for toiletries above. To the side is the shower area, impinged slightly by the wheel arch but this space is used well by siting the washbasin above. The wheel arch actually makes quite a good seat for very young children if you need to rinse the sand off their feet.

STORAGE

The 665 has all the usual airline-style overhead lockers in the living area and above the rear bed. These are a gloss white with sleek, silver handles - if you're the practical type and regularly reaching for these, you may spend some time polishing up the gloss, but they do lighten and brighten the overall ambience of the living area.

The best storage comes at the rear of the van, beneath the double bed where there is a cavernous storage space that's ideal for sports equipment, toys, picnic tables and so on. A large door either side of the vehicle provides easy access externally, while there's also a useful internal hatch to reach for stored items without stepping out into the rain. If this storage space is really important to you, take the Flex Space option, that allows height adjustment of the rear bed to make the storage area bigger.

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

BASE VEHICLE CHASSIS:

Ford Transit Euro6D 130bhp (optional upgrade to 170bhp or choice of automatic gearbox)

MASS IN RUNNING ORDER (MIRO) 2995kg

GROSS VEHICLE WEIGHT 3500kg

MAX PAYLOAD 505kg

EXTERIOR LENGTH 6.41m

BODY WIDTH 2.35m

HEIGHT 2.95m

BERTHS 4

DESIGNATED TRAVEL SEATS 4

COST from £48,445 (OTR)

TOURING TALES

TOURING MAGAZINE CATCHES UP WITH CLAIRE STURZAKER, FOUNDER OF TRAVEL BLOG *TALES OF A BACKPACKER*, TO SPEAK ABOUT HER INTRODUCTION TO THE WORLD OF MOTORHOMING AND PLANS TO TOUR THE COAST OF ENGLAND



Claire enjoying campervan life on a sunny day



Mabel the Motorhome at a campsite in York

You got your first motorhome, Mabel, last year. Can you tell us a bit about her?

Mabel is a 2004 Peugeot Boxer Auto-Sleeper. She isn't cool or trendy but she's in excellent condition for her age – and perfect just for me. My cousin Tom helped me find her, he knows a lot more about campervans than I do (in particular the mechanical side) so he went to take a look at a couple of vans for me before recommending I buy her.

You're planning to spend a few months touring the coastline of England this year. What parts are you particularly looking forward to?

All of it! I can't wait to get out and go somewhere new, but I decided on a trip around the coast as I miss

the sea more than anything. I used to live in Barcelona in Spain, and now I've been in the Midlands for so long during lockdown I need to see the sea! I haven't been to Devon and Cornwall since I was a child, so I'm excited to see what all the fuss is about, but I also want to find the beautiful seaside towns, villages and beaches all around the coast that aren't as well known. England is an incredible country, and there is so much to see here – we don't all need to go to the same places!

How many miles do you expect to cover on this journey?

My goal is to go all around the coast of England, starting at Avonmouth near Bristol, all along the South and East Coasts then across the border with Scotland to the West Coast and down through to Merseyside to finish close to where I was born in Southport. I'm not sure how far

that is, to be honest, but it's quite a trip! I'm lucky that I work online so I don't have any time restraints and I can go at my own pace – as long as we don't go into lockdown again!

How important is planning your trips in detail? Or do you like to leave some elements to chance?

I'm not the best planner! I am more used to having a general idea of what I'll be doing and then planning in detail about a week in advance. I spent a couple of years backpacking around South America, Central America and Mexico and got used to just going with the flow. The challenge for this trip will be making sure I have somewhere to stay every night – especially as demand for campsite pitches will be higher than ever! So far, I've only got two sites reserved, but I will book more when I am 100% sure I can set off on April 12th. →

Interview

You're a seasoned solo traveller. Will you miss the social aspect that backpacking and staying in hostels offers, or have you found that there are similar opportunities to make friends at campsites?

I really do miss the social side of hostels, well the social side of doing anything really. Not mixing with people has been tough for everyone

of course, but one of the joys of travelling is meeting new people, whether they are fellow travellers or local people.

I have been very careful to maintain social distancing, so that made things harder to get to know people, but I was pleasantly surprised by how friendly the campervan and caravan community are. There is always someone around to help if I have any problems – from helping me reverse into a tight parking

space to pulling Mabel out of a muddy pitch.

Everyone always says hello on the campsite, and I love it when I get a “campervan wave” when I’m driving along! I do feel like I’m part of the community now, which is lovely. I think as restrictions ease, and more people get vaccinated we will be more comfortable mixing and socialising properly again – I’m looking forward to that very much!



Mabel parked at Cheddar Gorge

You're a keen scuba diver. Are there any coastal dive sites you particularly want to experience?

It's been far too long since I was in the water, I need a refresher course before I do anything, but I would love to dive with seals and see some of the shipwrecks around the coast. I'm sure it will be different from diving in the Caribbean, but I can't wait to get back under the water again.

You are very conscious of the environmental impact of travel. How does travelling by motorhome compare to flying? What do you do to minimise and offset your carbon footprint?

I love to travel, but it can have a huge impact on the environment. At first, I was worried about driving around in a diesel guzzling campervan, but when I looked at a carbon tracker, I realised that driving the campervan all the way from John O Groats to Lands' End and back again would emit roughly the same amount of carbon as a return flight from Birmingham to Barcelona.

In a normal year, I would usually take a lot more flights than that, so I am glad I am reducing my carbon footprint while still getting to travel! We have a unique opportunity to start over and be more conscious about how and where we travel, and I hope that we can all take steps towards travelling in a more responsible and sustainable way. I know I am not perfect, but I do try to reduce my impact on the

environment wherever I can. I cut down on plastic waste wherever possible and have a reusable water bottle and reusable cotton face masks which I use all the time. I have a litter picker for when I park up somewhere and see rubbish lying around, and I also have a grove of trees in Scotland with Trees for Life (a re-wilding project in Scotland) to offset some of the carbon I use. I believe if we all take small, easy steps like this, together we can make a big difference.

Are you planning to take Mabel to the Continent once international travel opens up again? Are there any particular countries you'd like to experience by motorhome?

I hope so! I am looking forward to exploring England, but I would love to take Mabel abroad. My first trip would be to Spain and Portugal and then who knows? Maybe driving across Europe to Asia - that would be epic!

Do you have any tips for anyone just starting out in their first motorhome or caravan?

If you haven't bought it yet, get someone who knows about motorhomes and caravans to take a look – especially if it is second hand. Rust can be a problem on older models, so having someone you trust to take a look at the engine and underneath can save you a lot of grief! Otherwise, my top tip is to take lots of layers, blankets and hot water

bottles as it does get chilly at night. The good old British weather also changes very quickly, so come prepared for everything from glorious sunshine to snow and hail so you can enjoy your time away no matter what the weather. •



Claire is a travel blogger and digital nomad. Passionate about solo female travel, through her blog *Tales of a Backpacker* she helps women to plan their best budget travel adventure in a safe and sustainable way. Claire has travelled extensively in Latin America and Europe and has lived and worked in several countries across the world including Spain, Mexico and the USA. In 2020 she bought a campervan to travel around the UK, using Mabel the Motorhome as a home and office while exploring her own country. You can follow her adventures on social media



Get Set for Summer

GIVE YOUR VAN A GOOD SPRING CLEAN
BEFORE HEADING OUT THIS SEASON

Why is it that we always want our vans to look 'just so' for the first trip out of the sunny season? Especially if it has been parked up on the driveway or in storage for several months while the pandemic takes its course. Whether it's the onset of warmer weather (who, otherwise, really enjoys that moment mid-winter when the hose uninks as you're washing the van, peppering you with an icy blast of cold water?) or the sign of good times ahead, make the most of the urge to spring clean and get your van in order.

HABITATION CHECKS

Dealers demand that we have annual habitation checks to maintain the warranty on a van and, if your caravan, campervan or motorhome is still within that magical honeymoon period, you may well want to allow a dealership or workshop to do the check for you. But, let's face it; these checks (and they generally are

only 'checks', not actual maintenance) usually cost the price of a holiday.

So, you can run the checks yourself, save yourself a fortune, and only ask for the maintenance to be done if you're not confident about repairing a problem pipe or a leaking tap.

First things first, get hold of a damp detector to check for any unseen problems. A visual check for mould is pretty obvious – particularly at the top and back of overhead cupboards and around roof-vents/skylights and windows, the most likely places for evidence of water ingress. Then check all around the external seams for signs of sealant drying out or cracking – it's worth resealing around roof vents annually. If you were fortunate enough to get a trip away in between





lockdowns, you'll know that the various systems work, otherwise run any electrical appliances, gas and water systems to check they're still functioning correctly. More so - and before you do - look at any visible cabling and pipework for signs of deterioration, rodent or frost damage. Ideally, you'll have kept the leisure battery charged up (by way of a hook-up) or disconnected it and kept it topped up over winter but now's the time to check it is fully charged, and holds its charge.

TIME TO CLEAN

Internally, domestic spray cleaners on kitchen work surfaces and tables within vans are generally fine but domestic bleach-based

cleaners are too abrasive for washrooms, including the toilet, and could damage the surfaces. Products like Shower Shine work well throughout the washroom area. Resealing joints within

the washroom – around the shower, sink and toilet – instantly make the area feel and look cleaner and is a worthwhile maintenance job to prevent water seeping away to hidden corners. Check the seals on the toilet cassette and flush both the fresh and waste water tanks through. Fenwick's produce a Waste Pipe & Tank Cleaner for disinfecting grey water systems.

Bicarbonate of soda is useful for cleaning the fridge – and good at getting rid of lingering odours from last season. When cleaning the gas hob, take care not to block the jets. Blinds can be wiped over with a damp cloth, leaving them to dry before rewinding/lifting the concertina folds, and, if you haven't done so already over winter, mattresses and seat cushions can be taken indoors for airing.

Externally, use a caravan and motorhome cleaner or car shampoo rather than domestic cleaning products on the bodywork. You'll find plenty of specialist products out there from companies such as Autoglym, Fenwicks and Diamondbrite. Autoglym's Caravan and Motorhome Cleaner is multi-purpose and can be used on internal surfaces, too, while Fenwick's supply →





van ROOFS CAN OFTEN GET FORGOTTEN. CHECK JOINTS AND RESEAL WHERE SEALANT HAS GONE BRITTLE BEFORE GIVING THE ROOF A GOOD WASH

USE SPECIALIST CARAVAN AND MOTORHOME (OR CAR CLEANERS) RATHER THAN DOMESTIC CLEANING PRODUCTS, WHICH CAN BE TOO ABRASIVE TO BODYWORK AND SEALS. COMPANIES SUCH AS AUTOGLYM PRODUCE A WIDE-RANGE OF SPECIALIST PRODUCTS.



separate concentrates for both caravans and motorhomes, helping to remove algae and stubborn streaks. To remove those irritating black streaks from bodywork, Fenwick's produce a Black Streak Remover.

Adding a coat of Diamondbrite protection will help to prevent the exterior bodywork of new vans from deteriorating over time but to bring that good-as-new sparkle back to the paintwork, Fenwick's Bobby Dazzler, which is applied during rinsing as a protective surface coating, prevents the need to polish.

Finally, finish off by looking after the acrylic and plastic windows of the van. These can be treated with Autoglym's Fast Glass for a smear free finish without scratching but to get those scratches from last season's hedges out, Fenwick's Windowize will help to remove them.

And, once you're on your travels, Diamondbrite has a really useful Leisure Pack for inside and out cleaning, that's perfect for taking with you and storing in the van. Incorporated into a handy storage bag, the 11 products include an Xpress Waterless Wash & Wax, screenwash, upholstery and carpet cleaner, surface sanitiser, window cleaner, plus cleaning cloth and drying towel.

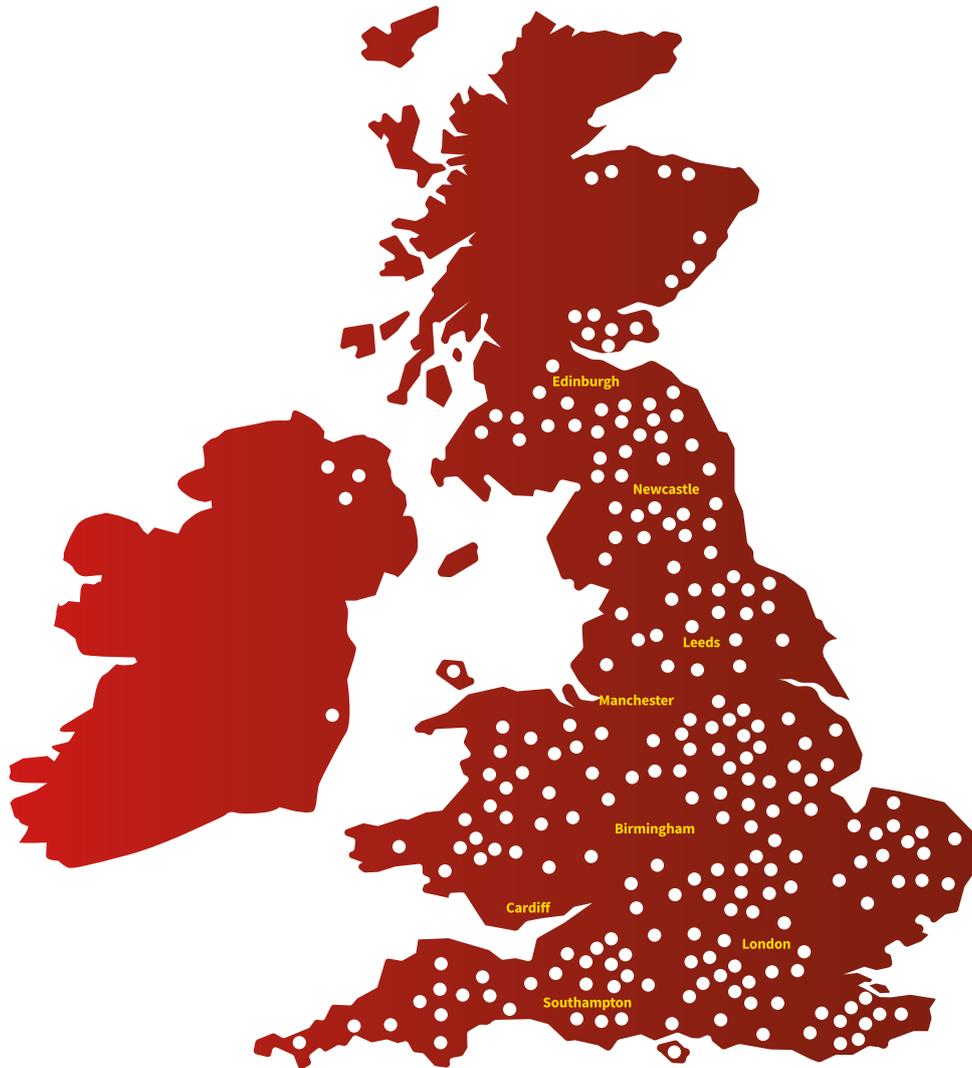
Here's to a return to camping - in a sparkling clean van! •





**APPROVED
WORKSHOP**



Certified Peace of Mind

With over 520 mobile and fixed workshops nationwide, we are the UK's largest network of independent manufacturer approved workshops offering servicing nationwide.

Recognised by the following manufacturers:



For a full member listing visit
www.approvedworkshops.co.uk



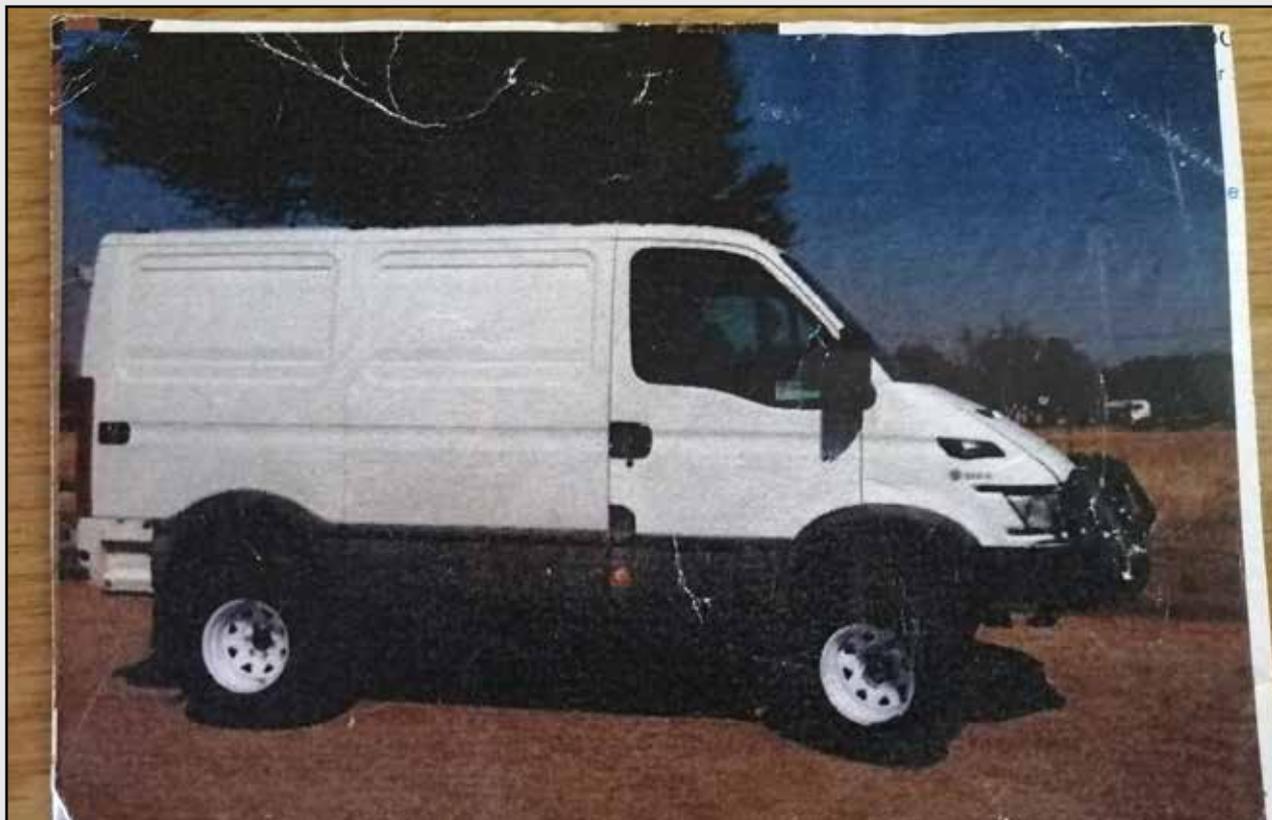
MAGNUM OPUS



A 40-YEAR VETERAN OF CAMPERVAN TRAVELS,
ANTON ALBERTS KNEW THAT THERE WAS A LOT
MORE TO SEE, IF ONLY HE HAD A 4x4 VEHICLE...



Self-build



I see an Iveco 4x4 panel van online and the price is right. It's a short wheel base model and has a Toyota Land Cruiser chassis with Nissan Patrol differentials. The transfer case is American, the NP205. It gives you a choice to engage the front and back differentials separately or together in 4x4 mode. There are, however, two problems: the vehicle is in Pretoria, and, as I would discover, if I exceed 40 km/h, the steering wheel threatens to jerk out of my hands. Nevertheless, I decide to buy the Iveco, pay a deposit and fly back home.

The problem, of course, is how to get the Iveco to the Cape, because driving it here won't work. I am lucky: Carel van Niekerk of Piket Implements hears of my dilemma and says he has a spot on a truck that's heading south from there. By now, I'm pretty broke and for the time being can't spend more money on the Iveco.

This does, however, give me time to diagnose the fault. Basically, I have to change the front section of the chassis. Not only do I need to move the steering box, but also all the steering arms and their ball joints. Furthermore, 10 mm steel sheets must be

welded to the ladder frame chassis and the front differential must be moved. Steering issue solved!

After six months of watching YouTube videos on the subject, I'm ready to tackle the interior. But first I set some principles I will adhere to.

Firstly, the weight: it must be kept as low as possible. All heavy items in the Iveco must also be mounted as low as possible. The interior finish of the motorhome will be aluminium and fiberglass.

Secondly, the interior space should be utilised efficiently. Next, add proper insulation against cold and heat – this also means less noise in the motorhome. And a comfortable bed is a must – and one for each of my twin daughters, Anicia and Rencia. They've already left school, but sometimes they camp with us. The layout must be such that everything is easily accessible, but also where it belongs – for example, kitchenware together and bedroom items where you sleep. I don't want to struggle with everything packed away in ammo boxes.

Nothing is allowed to roll around while I drive, nor do I want rattles. For this, I line almost the entire interior with rubber before →

**RIGHT:
THE VAN WAS
STRIPPED AND THE
HARDBOARD WALLS
REPLACED WITH
AN ALUMINIUM
COMPOSITE
MATERIAL**

Van Conversion





LEFT: ALUMINIUM TILES WERE SECURED WITH SILICONE INSTEAD OF GROUT TO PREVENT MOVEMENT

RIGHT: PARTS WERE TEMPLATED WITH CARDBOARD TO ENSURE THE PERFECT FIT

“The whole building project is done in my driveway since the Iveco is too high to fit into my garage”

any of the panels are secured. I install a toilet and shower for when we camp deep in the bush, and finally – just in case – the Iveco has to fit inside a shipping container.

The first step is to purchase a TIG welder so that I can weld aluminium. Again, YouTube teaches me. Coincidentally, the owner of my local hangout wants to get rid of his fibreglass bar countertops at the same time and I recognise this could become furniture for my new motorhome. I load it all and soon my backyard is littered with used countertops.

In terms of tools, I started the whole project with just basic equipment: a circular saw, a drill, a jigsaw and an angle grinder. I make my own table saw by mounting the circular saw upside down in a wooden box. The whole building project is done in my driveway since

the Iveco is too high to fit into my garage.

It's time to start with the insulation. The most important element is finding the right material, but I come across something that will work – it comes in 10m rolls and is similar to the insulating material you see around air-con pipes. It's as light as a feather, keeps the Iveco cool and it's also effective for sound insulation.

The interior walls and windows are next. I decide on glass because it is affordable and doesn't scratch as easily as Perspex windows. On the side is a smaller window through which my camera's long lens fits. I lift the floor by an inch because the space needs insulation, and it creates room for wiring – nicely out of sight. I use conduit pipe to guide the wires from one end to the other, and clearly mark where it goes so that →



“Two 105Ah deep-cycle batteries are under the front seats and are connected to 300w of rooftop solar panels”



SWIVEL SEATS
WERE INSTALLED
AND POSITIONED TO
ACCOMMODATE A 40L
FREEZER IN BETWEEN
THEM AND TWO
BATTERIES BELOW



A SMALL WINDOW ON THE SIDE OF THE VAN ALLOWS DISCREET WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY



THE OUTDOOR SHOWER – THERE IS ALSO AN INDOOR OPTION

I can easily fix outages. Initially I choose wood for the cupboards, but quickly decide it won't work. I scrap the idea and switch to fibreglass. Although it looks as if the cabinets have a wood finish, they're those fibreglass countertops covered in a layer of plastic with a wood design.

The first items you need at a campsite are the camping table and chairs, which is why I set up a shelf above the driver and passenger for the chairs. Both my camping tables as well as a smaller one is stored by the passenger door. The induction plate got its own cupboard at the tail of the Iveco with its own door.

For the solar panels, inverters and other electrical equipment, I needed to ask for advice. The two 105 Ah deep-cycle batteries are now under the front seats – I had to adjust their bases anyway – and are connected to 300 W of rooftop solar panels.

The seats themselves I found on the internet. They're the ones you can swing around to sit in your 'living room'. By the way, while adjusting the seat bases, I also moved them slightly farther apart so that my 40l freezer could fit into the space between them. It was quite a thing as the handbrake and gear lever →

Self-build



THE INTERIOR
MAKES USE
OF SLEEK AND
DURABLE
LIGHTWEIGHT
MATERIALS

THE COMPLETED
VAN COMBINES 4x4
PRACTICALITY WITH
EXCEPTIONALLY
GOOD LOOKS



changing mechanism also had to move. It is also a good place for heavy goods such as the batteries, which should be as close as possible to the front wheels.

The Australian Projecta MPPT regulator monitors matters here. With this system you are completely self-sufficient in terms of electricity. My water-heating system is unique. The electric 10L geyser with its temperature regulator plugs into the inverter and can work while driving – when you arrive at the campsite you can connect it to the

“The roof can open to any side so it can ‘follow’ the sun”



national grid. The water heats quickly; you can shower within 15 minutes. When you open the hot-water tap, the temperature's just right and you can shower using only 4l of water. The water tanks are two transparent 25l plastic containers. They're by the back door and you can see how much water is left. They're placed in such a way that you can easily fill them from a river. The floor at the sliding door and in front of the second row of seats is also a concealed shower floor. A shower curtain keeps things private and you can stretch it from side to side behind the front seats to make the whole interior private. The cassette toilet pulls out from under the farthest seat.

The roof had to come off for the popup roof, and here I also learnt a lesson. I decided to lift the roof hydraulically, but I made a mistake somewhere and the roof shot off the Iveco like a rocket! Now it's back to the conventional way and I use four gas struts to get the job done. The roof can open to any side so it can 'follow' the sun. I didn't want to use mesh between the roof and hull of the Iveco as I love the open feel. But monkeys at Augrabies and baboons at Citrusdal changed my mind.

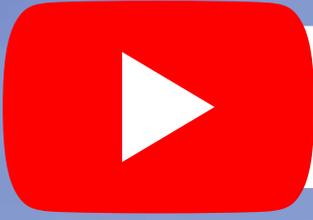
Now I have one-way gauze material that's actually used for blinds. So, I still have my privacy and have fresh air passing through to the interior.

The Iveco has two 75l diesel tanks that can be refilled from both sides. I haven't had the courage to fill both at the same time, because I shudder to think how much it will cost. You also don't want to carry unnecessary weight – except, of course, when you're headed for somewhere remote.

Today, I'm pleased with the layout and the Iveco handles well. Remember, such a project comes at a price.

Renda was a work widow for almost two years, I had to perform all the labour on the Iveco after hours... and you may as well cancel all your weekends off. •

VISIT ANTON'S YOUTUBE
CHANNEL FOR MORE DETAILS ON THE
BUILD AND TO SEE HIS VAN IN ACTION

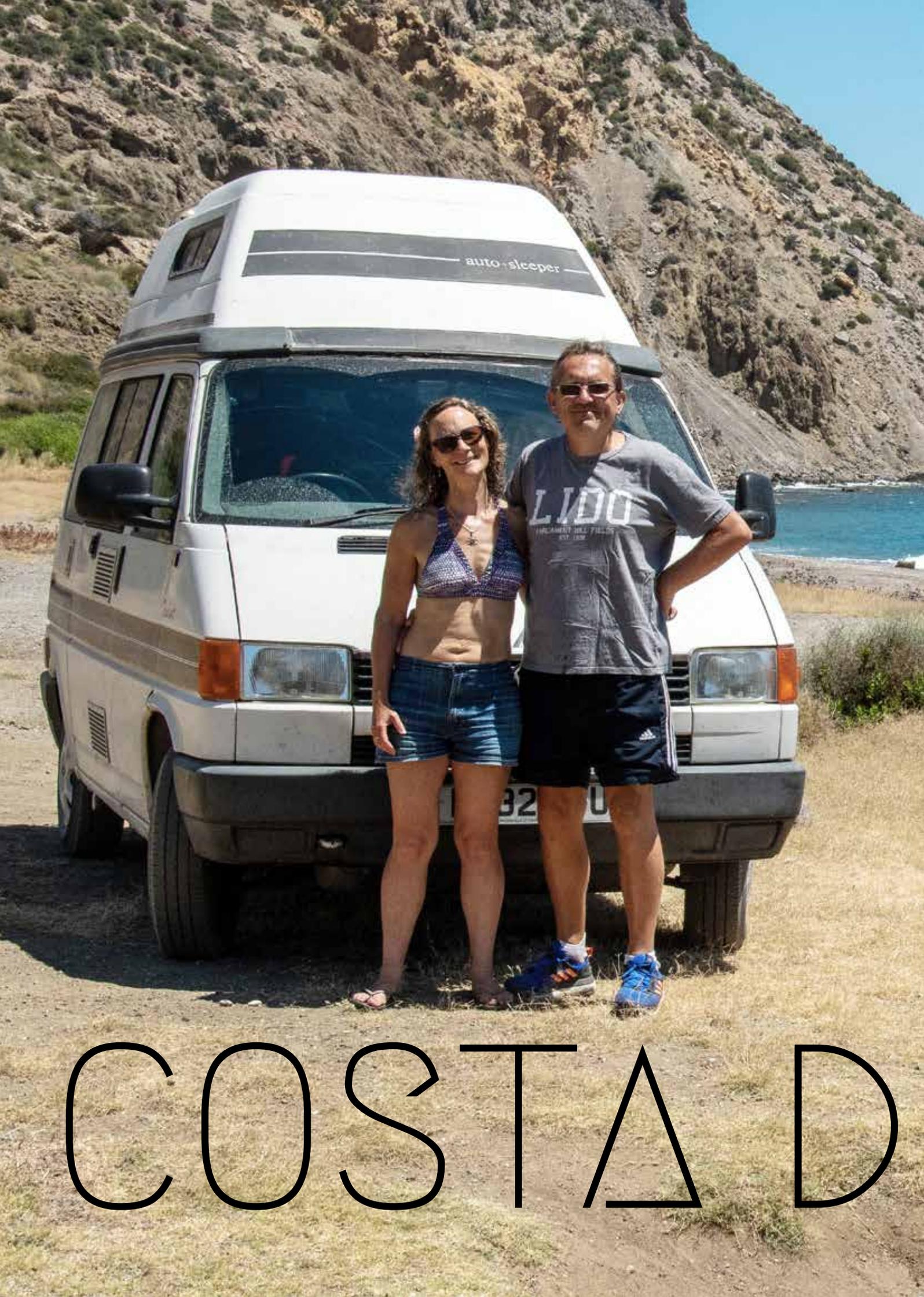


Overlandervanman

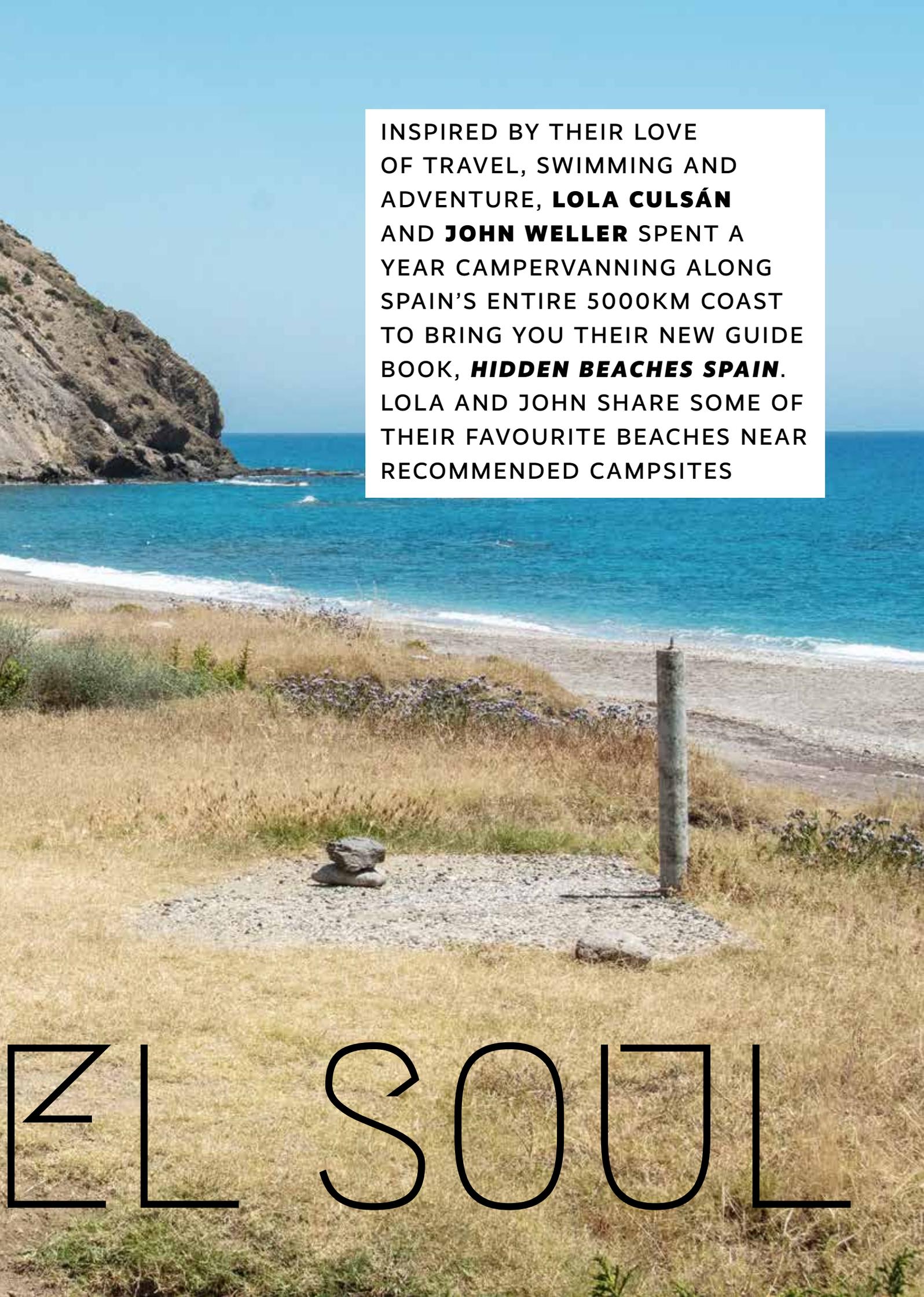


ANTON ALBERTS
AND HIS WIFE RENDA
RELAXING BY THE VAN





COSTAD



INSPIRED BY THEIR LOVE
OF TRAVEL, SWIMMING AND
ADVENTURE, **LOLA CULSÁN**
AND **JOHN WELLER** SPENT A
YEAR CAMPERVANNING ALONG
SPAIN'S ENTIRE 5000KM COAST
TO BRING YOU THEIR NEW GUIDE
BOOK, **HIDDEN BEACHES SPAIN**.
LOLA AND JOHN SHARE SOME OF
THEIR FAVOURITE BEACHES NEAR
RECOMMENDED CAMPSITES

EL SOUL

Overseas Touring

CALA DEL POZO DE LA AVISPA

COSTA CÁLIDA

Well of the Wasp Cove is at the end of an enjoyable hike with sweeping views over the bay and Sierra de la Muela. Take supplies and follow a path bordered by dwarf palms, wild flowers and masses of rosemary while listening to the melodic whir and hum of bees. Backed by layers of yellow fossilised dunes, this isolated cove has clear blue water. If you prefer chlorinated water, we highly recommend Camping Los Madriles' (www.campinglosmadriles.es) continuously renewed hydrothermal salt water swimming pool.

Parking 37.5411, -1.1258

Moderate 70 mins 37.5539, -1.1264

Spanish Beaches



Overseas Touring

COSTA VERDE WEST

Praia de Porto Carrizo is a gorgeous mixed/nudist beach with a series of bashful coves boasting fine white sand. Camping Valdeviño (www.campingvaldovino.com) has a quality restaurant and bar, mouthwatering takeaway pizza and a swimming pool.

Parking 43.6422, -8.1076.

Easy 5 mins 43.6430, -8.1087



Spanish Beaches

PRAIA DE
PORTO
CARRIZO

Overseas Touring

PLATJA DE LA LLENÇA



COSTA DORADA

Firewood Beach is surrounded by rust-coloured cliffs topped with aleppo pine. Swim in the clearest water beneath red cliffs and pines. Ideal for snorkelling. Camping Ametlla (www.campingametlla.com) is a family-friendly campsite with a big swimming pool overlooking the beach.

Parking 40.8648, 0.7848.
Easy 5 mins 40.8618, 0.7817

Overseas Touring

PLAYA ARAMAL

COSTA CANTÁBRICA

Playa Aramal is a small but charming golden-sand beach, enclosed by steep, rocky hillsides covered with wild honeysuckle, speedwell and clover. Her calm and pristine waters are best enjoyed at low tide when you can walk across to Playa de Amió. This beach receives few visitors and the small cave is a lovers' hideaway. Nearby Camping las Arenas (www.campinglasarenas.com) has hillside plots overlooking the Bay of Biscay.

Parking 43.3925, -4.4855.

Moderate 20 mins 43.3941, -4.4899





Overseas Touring

PLAYA DEL FARO

COSTA DE LA LUZ

Lighthouse Beach is in front of the famous Faro de Trafalgar. A famous battle took place here in 1805. Camping Pinar San José (www.campingpinarsanjose.com) is a friendly campsite nearby which boasts a well-stocked, upmarket supermarket.

Parking 36.188, -6.0269

Easy 15 mins 36.1819, -6.0337



Spanish Beaches



PLAYA DE COBIJERU



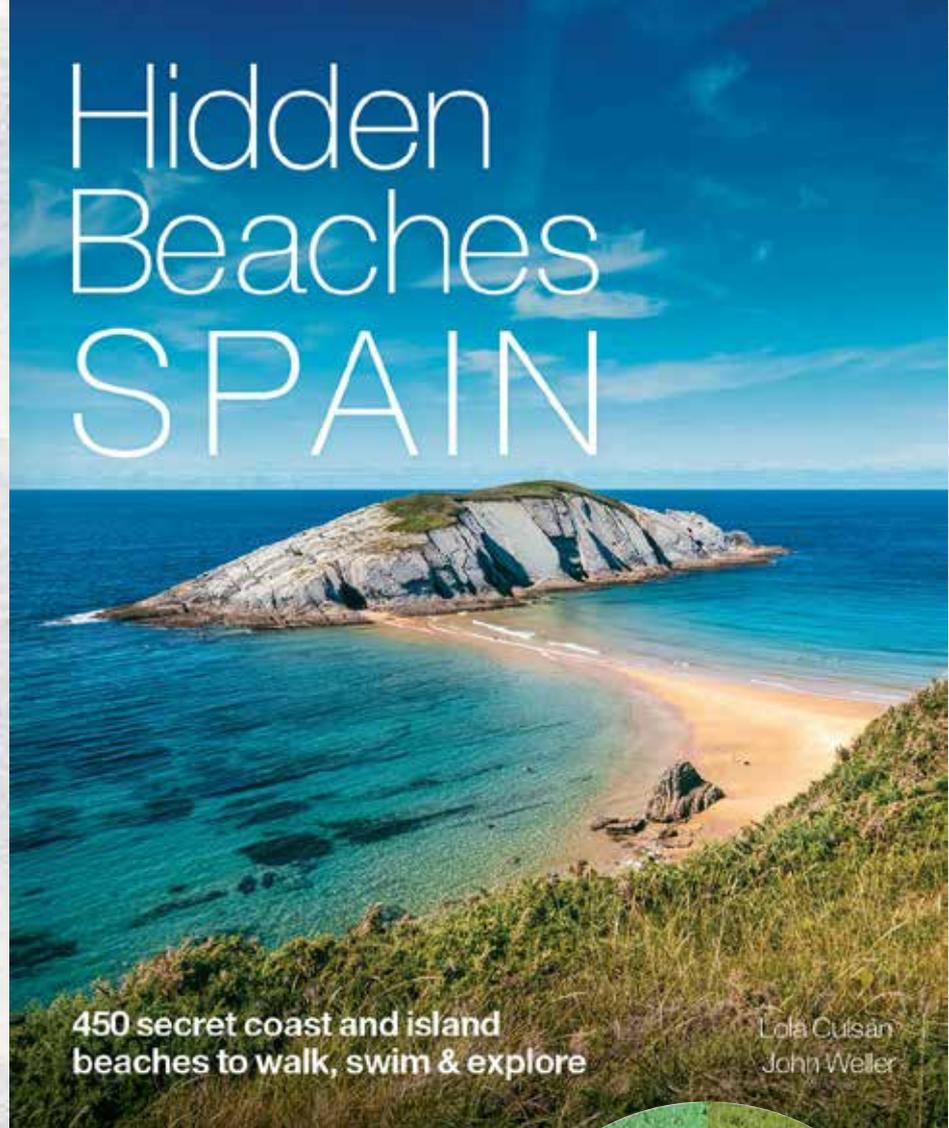
COSTA VERDE ASTURIAS

A geological wonder with caves to explore, this magical, semi-circular inland beach is surrounded by acacia trees and grassy hillsides. You could almost be in Hobbiton with the Bagginses. Underground tunnels supply its crystal clear water. Best experienced at high tide and take a torch to explore the caves. Camping Colombres (www.campingcolombres.com) is in a picturesque wooded mountainside location with a swimming pool. Great atmosphere, good restaurant and bar, perfect for families and couples



Parking 43.3924, -4.6164.

Easy 15 mins 43.3961, -4.6099



450 secret coast and island beaches to walk, swim & explore

Lola Culsán
John Weller

Lola Culsán and John Weller are authors of **Hidden Beaches Spain: 450 secret coast and island beaches to walk, swim & explore**. Available now from Wild Things Publishing.



touring
magazine

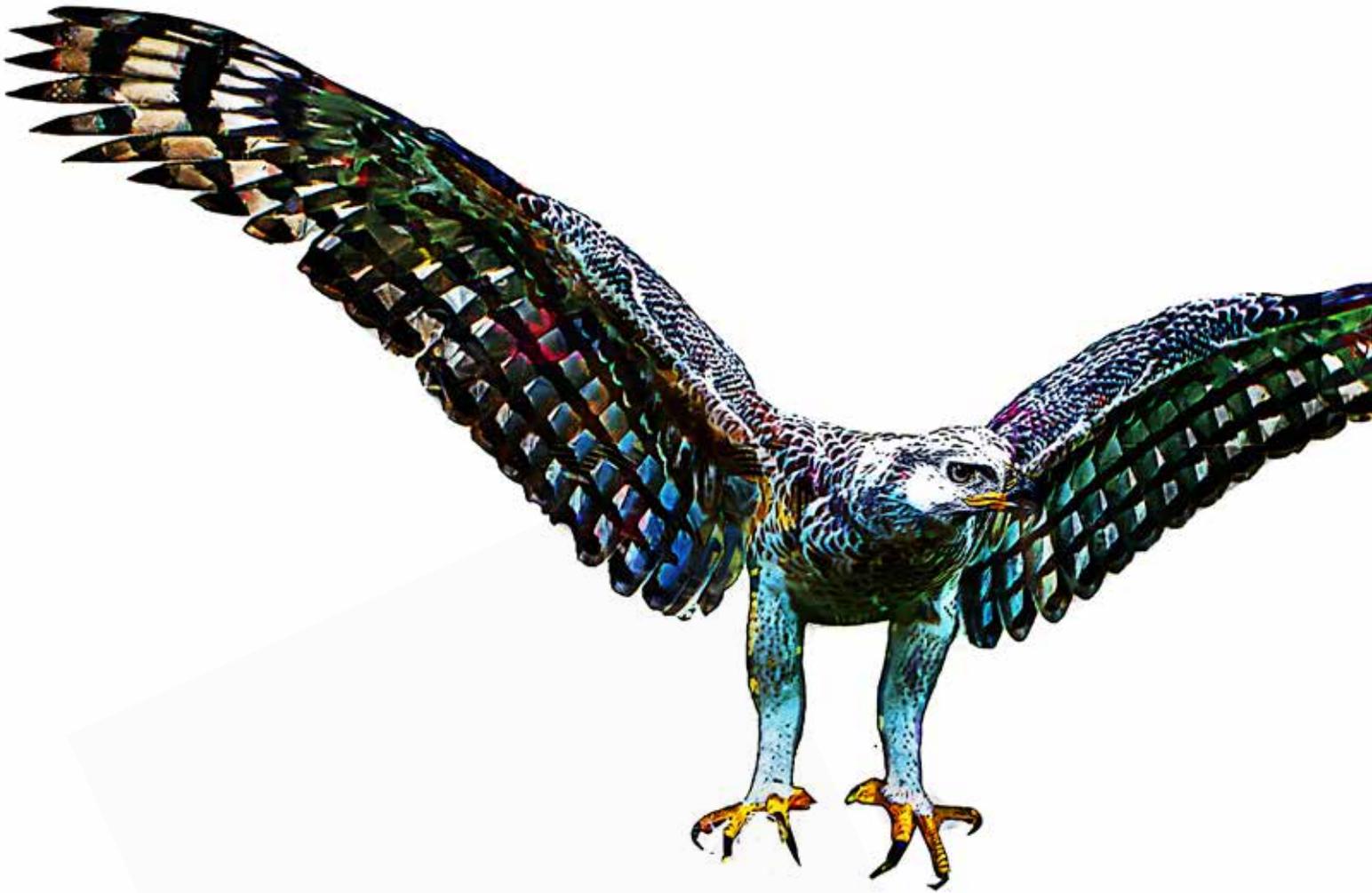
**reader
offer!**

RRP £18.99. *Touring Magazine* readers receive 20% off and free P&P with discount code 'TouringSpain21' at www.wildthingspublishing.com (includes ebooks). Also available as an ebook and app for Android and iOS / Apple iPhone.

Also from Lola Culsán and John Weller, **Wild Swimming Spain: discover the most beautiful rivers, lakes and waterfalls of Spain**.

Follow their adventures on Instagram @wildswimmingspain

History



HISTORY OF THE HOBBY



Subbuteo was invented in England by Peter Adolph in 1947. Back then, a cheap and cheerful game that could be played by all the family, with the pitch drawn in chalk, on an old Army blanket and laid out on the dining room table, was bound to catch on but Adolph was cautious. Before actually making any of the boxed sets he put an advert in Boys' Own magazine, explaining the game and inviting players to make out a cheque to him for 7/6d (about 35p in today's money) and then he would send them the game.

After the ad went in he went off to America for six weeks on a business trip. After two weeks, his mother (whom he lived with in Langton just outside Tunbridge Wells) contacted him and said: "Peter, dear, what do you want me to do with all these cheques and Postal Orders that I've got? How much do they come to? I stopped counting at £10,000." "Take them to the bank and pay them in. I'll sort it out when I get back, Mother dear."

Many thought that they had been the victim of a scam, because Adolph had not even made the game. When he got back from the USA, he quickly got locals, family and friends and anybody who wanted piece work, to bash out the players, paint them and box them up. He intended to call the game The Hobby but just before sending them out to the customers he thought he had better check with the Patent Office that he could use that name as the game's trademark. "Sorry, no; there's already a game on the market with that name."

But Adolph was unfazed, even though the labels for The Hobby had already been printed. He knew that the Latin name for the bird of prey, the hobby, was *Falco subbuteo*, so that is how the game got the name.

The game sets were made for many years in Langton Green and Chiddingstone Causeway just outside Tunbridge Wells. There was also a manufacturing unit in Gibraltar; Adolph used a visit to that business as an

excuse so that he could go there and watch the spring and autumn migrations pass through. The game was based on an earlier table football version from the 1920s called New Footy. The Subbuteo trademark included the bird of prey.

The hobby comes to Kent and Sussex in the summer to breed; it winters in Africa. It's a marvellous hunter renowned for its aerial manoeuvrability and speed on the wing. Adult birds are one of the few capable of out-flying swifts which means they approach 100 miles an hour on the wing. Younger birds learn to hunt by taking slower flying prey like beetles, then graduate to dragon flies and later birds and bats. Their victims are usually taken and eaten on the wing.

The first Subbuteo set composed of cut-out cardboard figures with plastic bases, two goalies with bases and control rods, a plastic ball and two metal goals. A pitch was not provided - instead players were able to mark out their own on a blanket with the chalk included in the pack.

Subbuteo grew to be really popular in the 1960s when a range of 3D figures were launched as well as lots of accessories, such as floodlights. After the World Cup in 1966, Subbuteo turned into a worldwide craze and new factories producing the little men opened up throughout Europe. Subbuteo reached its peak in the 1970s. At this point there were over 300 teams available.

Subbuteo continues to be popular and is sold today by Hasbro. Over 500 million figures have been made since the game was launched. •

Chris McCoey owned a motorhome for a number of years and his Swift 600 was a great way for him to explore Kent and Sussex and research his books. This extract is from Tales, Titbits and Trivia of Kent and Sussex. Details of all of his books and talks can be found on his website www.chrismccoey.co.uk or contact him at chris.mccoey49@gmail.com.

Green



A lush green forest floor is covered in a dense carpet of wild garlic flowers. The flowers are small, white, and star-shaped, with many tiny petals radiating from a central point. They are interspersed with large, vibrant green leaves. In the background, the trunks of trees and more foliage are visible, creating a sense of depth and a natural setting. The overall scene is bright and fresh, capturing the peak of the wild garlic season.

& Good

WILD GARLIC SEASON IS UPON US.

TOTALLY WILD SHOWS US THE INCREDIBLY
VERSATILE QUALITIES OF THIS FRAGRANT PLANT



With winter finally on the way out, we can start to look towards spring and the green delights it brings. The most iconic wild food to find is wild garlic. When I ask people if they've foraged before most say they've picked wild garlic. Wild garlic is easy to spot and you often smell it before you see it.

Wild garlic usually grows in huge patches, on a windy day it's like a sea of green, with the leaves rippling like waves. Wild garlic grows from a small oval shaped bulb (nothing like the cloves of garlic we get from the shops). Its leaves are spear shaped with a pointed tip, and can range from 5 - 15cms in length and 3 - 6cm wide. Each plant has one single flower head that sits on top of a solitary stem, shooting up from the centre of the connecting leaves and looks like a white pompom sat on top of a pole. The white flower contains 6 petals.

There's a few look-alikes when you're picking garlic that you want to avoid, one is lords and ladies which has a heart shaped green leaf and often grows in between the garlic leaves, so you

Wild Garlic

need to check you've not accidentally collected a lords and ladies leaf when you're gathering garlic. I made the mistake of nibbling one once and it was like having fine shards of glass on your tongue, not an experience I will ever repeat. The second is lilly of the valley which is highly toxic. To tell them apart, wild garlic has one or two leaves coming from a bulb each with their own stem. Lily of the valley has multiple leaves that come from one stem. The flowers lilly of the valley has small bell shaped flowers the length of the flower stem and wild garlic has a clustered head of individual star like flowers. Smell is the easiest way to tell the difference, if you crush a wild garlic leaf or flower it will smell of garlic and if you crush a lily of the valley it has no real scent.

The whole of the garlic plant is edible, however there

is no better flavour in the bulb than the rest of the plant and wild garlic is slow growing, taking around seven years from seed to a plant mature enough to produce seeds of its own. So it's best to leave the bulbs intact underground for next year's offering.

The leaves have a million uses, they can be used to make a wonderful garlic pesto, added to salads, mixed into curries, soups and stews, they can be lacto-fermented to make an incredible garlic paste. My favourite part is the unopened flower buds, fry them in a little bit of butter and have as an accompaniment to pretty much anything. The flowers are also edible, great in salads or to decorate the top of your dish. Finally the seeds, which can be pickled to make garlic capers, or added to sea salt to make a wonderful garlic salt. →





WILD GARLIC PESTO PASTA

The pesto I make with wild garlic is thick, chunky and delicious with a huge range of recipes, from stuffing chicken breast to serving as wild garlic bread and of course the classic pesto and pasta – it's truly versatile and can be bagged in zip seal bags and kept in the freezer for whenever you need it.

This recipe is quick, easy and has that classic taste that only simple cooking and fresh ingredients give you.

Ingredients

- ▶ One hand/50g fresh Wild Garlic – stems and leaves
- ▶ One hand/50g Nettle tops
- ▶ 80g cobnuts – crushes (or mixed nuts)
- ▶ 80g hard cheese grated - parmesan
- ▶ 100ml olive oil
- ▶ Basil to taste
- ▶ 10 Sorrel leaves (or the juice of half a lemon)
- ▶ 400g penne pasta

Method

- ▶ Bring a pan of water to the boil, add a pinch of salt and the dried pasta, this will take about 8 minutes in which time you can make the pesto.
- ▶ Chop the nettles and wild garlic into small pieces, use gloves so you don't get stung.
- ▶ If you have a food processor, chuck the nettle, wild garlic, cob nuts and sorrel leaves and basil in and blitz very quickly, 10 seconds at a time so it's well mixed but still crunchy.
- ▶ If not, put the wild garlic, nettle tops, sorrel leaves and mixed nuts in a pestle and mortar and grind well, add basil as you like (I prefer it without).
- ▶ In a bowl mix the garlic, nettle and nut paste to the grated cheese and add oil until you reach a consistency you're happy with, season to taste.
- ▶ Drain the pasta, place in a large bowl and toss the pesto through it, enjoy with garlic bread and an extra sprinkling of parmesan cheese.
- ▶ Or Store the pesto in the fridge for up to 2 weeks, alternatively bag and freeze using within 1 year.





WILD GARLIC CHUNKY MAYONNAISE

This chunky wild garlic mayonnaise is brilliant for those nights when you're having a pick and mix of foods that are perfect for dipping.

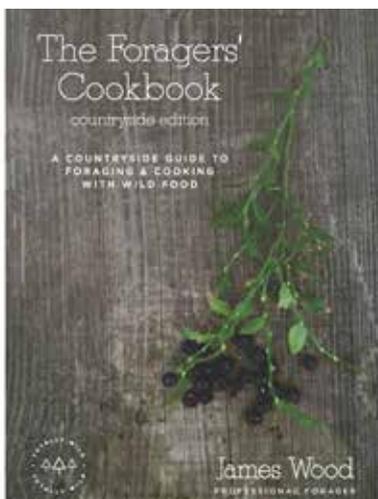
It can be made at the start of the week and used in every way you'd use more common mayonnaise, obviously the ratios can be changed to your liking but this is how I like to make it.

Ingredients

- ▶ 4 Eggs Yolks – white removed
- ▶ 500ml veg oil, either sunflower or rapeseed
- ▶ 1tblsp white wine vinegar
- ▶ 50g wild garlic stems and leaves, finely chopped
- ▶ 50g pine nuts – roughly chopped

Method

- ▶ Separate your egg yolks from the white and get rid of the white or keep it for another recipe
- ▶ Put the egg yolks in a large bowl, add the white wine vinegar and begin to whisk
- ▶ Slowly add the oil a little at a time and whisk thoroughly in between adding more.
- ▶ It will emulsify and resemble more regular mayonnaise
- ▶ Stop whisking and turn to a large spoon, folding in the wild garlic stems and pine nuts
- ▶ Enjoy in fajita wraps, with chips or even battered hogweed stems



Totally Wild

Totally Wild is a foraging company offering courses with expert foragers throughout the UK and sustainably harvested high quality ingredients. *The Foragers' Cookbook* by James Wood is priced at £14.99 and available at

www.totallywilduk.co.uk

The list...



OUTWELL CUSTER ROUND

£ 145.00

The pine-top Kimberly coffee table (right) sparked huge demand for chic, practical round tables so Outwell introduced the Custer Round this year.



OUTWELL LAZE INFLATABLE SET

£ 209.99

Outwell inflatable furniture has proven very popular and we have addressed consumer requests for slightly less expensive version with the Laze range. The set here has a sofa, chair and ottoman. All space saving, of course.





OUTWELL KIMBERLEY

£ 79.99

Kimberley is a hardwearing, smart and environmentally friendly table made from lightweight bamboo. Kimberley is ideal for campers who want a stylish package of modern design, comfort and durable materials.



ROBENS SETTLER CHAIR

£ 61.00

It has a big following with motorhomers and caravanners who love its low weight and the fact it folds up so small thanks to the clever design. Perfect for when storage and transportation restrictions in space and weight are key factors.





VANGO RIVIERA AIR 420 CARAVAN AWNING

£1500

New for 2021, the Riviera 420 air awning is a luxurious extension to your caravan that you won't want to be without on any trip. The classic design with modern colourway will complement any caravan. The Riviera uses the new and extensively developed Elements All-Season fabric which will stand strong against rugged weather conditions while internal bracer beams ensure a solid structure even in breezy conditions.



VANGO RADIATE CHAIRS

£95-£115

The Vango Radiate chair collection is sure to keep you warm on the campsite as it features an innovative, built-in, Graphene heating element, allowing you to heat your chair when connected to a power source. Compatible with any power bank, the Embrace chair will add a touch of luxury to your camping kit, with its high quality fabric and padded seat and backrest, you will be the envy of other campers on those chilly evenings on the campsite.

touring magazine

SUBSCRIBE

**Subscription is free and you'll
never miss an issue...**

...wherever you are.



[touring.co.uk](https://www.touring.co.uk)

MOTORHOME, CARAVAN AND CAMPING INSPIRATION